



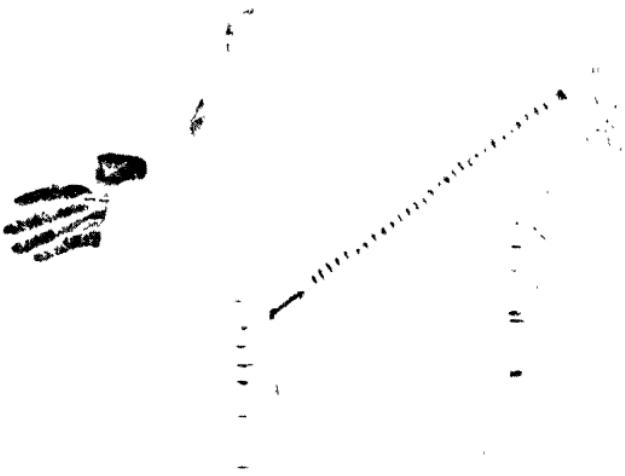
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The Selected Poems OF John Stuart Blackie

EDITED WITH AN APPRECIATION
BY
ARCHIBALD STODART WALKER

WITH A PORTRAIT

After the Painting by J. H. Lorimer, A.R.S.A.

LONDON
JOHN MACQUEEN
HASTINGS HOUSE, NORFOLK STREET, STRAND
1896

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So I will sing on—fast as fancies come
Rudely—the verse being as the mood it paints.

I am made up of an intensest life.'

ROBERT BROWNING.

Forsitan et nostrum nomen miscebitur istis :
Nec mea Lethæis scripta dabuntur aquis.

OVIDIUS.

Dedicated

WITH DEEP AFFECTION

TO

TWO GOOD WOMEN

HIS WIFE—MY AUNT

HIS SISTER—MY MOTHER

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

IN compiling this volume of selections from the poems of John Stuart Blackie, I am but carrying out a wish which he expressed to me shortly before he died. This holiday task I have taken as a work of love. My uncle never troubled himself as to the question of whether he was a major or minor poet, and in presenting this volume I prefer merely to announce it in the words of the sub-title of his '*Messis Vitae*,' namely as '*Gleanings of Song from a Happy Life*.' Many of the lays, lyrics and ballads included, are familiar to Scots throughout the world, and it is my hope that this selection will be as welcome to them as to a wider public not so familiar with these joyous effusions of a healthy soul.

In placing the selections under various headings, my division has necessarily been more or less arbitrary, and for a palpable reason I offer no apology for including certain lays, as, for instance, '*The Lay*

of the *Brave Cameron*,' under the heading of 'Ballads.'

With the exception of a few hitherto unpublished poems, the selection is made from 'The Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece,' 'Lyrical Poems,' 'Lays of the Highlands and Islands,' 'Musa Burschicosa,' 'Messis Vitae,' 'Songs of Religion and Life,' 'The War Songs of the Germans,' and 'The Language and Literature of the Scottish Highlands,' to the publishers of which, Messrs William Blackwood & Sons, Messrs Macmillan & Co., Mr David Douglas and Mr Walter Scott, I have to express my gratitude for their gracious consent to quote from works of which they hold the copyright, or part copyright.

It is only necessary for me to add, that if any poem is omitted from the volume, which anyone, acquainted with the poems of my uncle, deems worthy of inclusion in such a selection, I can only plead the excuses for neglecting such an inclusion, of the limit of my space and the limit of my judgment.

A. S. W.

30 WALKER STREET, EDINBURGH,

March 1896.

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Selected Poems of John Stuart Blackie

AN APPRECIATION

‘If Love will serve, lo ! how I love my friend,
If Reverence, lo ! how I reverence him,
If Faith be asked in something beautiful,
Lo ! what a splendour is my faith in him.’

ROBERT BUCHANAN.

IT is not for me to attempt to sketch the life history of John Stuart Blackie. That has already been done in an intelligent and sympathetic way by Miss Anna Stoddart, and my readers will turn to her pages for most that is worthy of record and preservation in the story of his rich and active life. All I can hope to attempt is, to lay a small stone upon his cairn ; to give, in attempting to estimate the character of the man, a small tribute of esteem to one, whom from close personal intercourse I learned to love, and I hope, understand well.

If, as I firmly believe, that man can estimate best who loves best, then I can offer no apology for my estimation. I do not presume a criticism, though that is much easier, as Vauvenarques says, than an estimation, and if what I write may savour more of a eulogy than an appreciation, I would only ask that my presentation be judged in the light of my intimate acquaintance and of my affection.

I have many memories of him, some very real, very

living, some in a degree less so ; some more sacred are like spectres creeping up from the God's-acre of my heart. Of these memories some are 'roses blowing along the pathway I pursue' ; in brooding over others, I seem to catch the echo of a martial note. I like to think of him (to use a dear friend's words) as 'The Happy Warrior ;' but I think of him more, when gathered round the fire of an evening, we talked together, and he poured out to me words of wisdom, the outcome of a life of thought, action and moral triumph. Only those few who came near to his heart in this way, really had a full appreciation of the simple sweetness and saintly nobleness of his character. In such a way one received a better picture of the man than could be obtained from the apparently strange contradictions of his public appearances. The picture of his life, however well-drawn, will always have a certain want of perspective, for he was not a man easy to understand ; outspoken on some subjects, he was extremely reticent on others, and it was difficult always to make a philosophical balance. It is this feeling that weighed with me when I read the many notices and biographies which appeared after his death, some even by near friends. There was, of course, always half the truth, and that, as my uncle used to say, is sometimes worse than a lie. There is one great exception, that is the work of Miss Anna Stoddart, to whom I must express my personal gratitude, for painting such a living picture of him whose departure has made my life more shadowy and my living less joyful.

My memories of him are chiefly those connected

with his home life in his latter years. Oh, that a Boswell could have sat at the festal boards of Altna Craig, Hill Street, and Douglas Crescent, 'when we gathered and ate with much disputing hum,' and chronicled the flashes of wisdom and wit which poured incessantly from his lips, the ready servants of his brain and heart ! There was no pedantry to damp the soul there, no clogging formalism to block the living streams which flowed in those physically and morally healthy veins. A comparatively insignificant illusion here, a trivial remark there, was readily caught by those marvellous ears of his, and turned into the channels of wisdom, from which one returned morally and mentally stimulated. However boisterous the sally, however dramatic the action, it was merely the froth on a well of virile wisdom, deep insight, catholic comparison and lovable charity. It might be a playful dig at the ribs of an Oxford don, a hard knock on the head of a 'Radical infallible,' or it might be the instilling of the wisdom of Goethe, or the 'quit-you-like-men' doctrine of St Paul, but all came from a heart that bore ill to no man, from one who 'found a kiss in every cross,' and couched in language that made the heart beat stronger at the time, and which left much that on meditation made the brain grow bigger.

At other times I found him not the teacher, but the taught. Seeking in—I must grant—a terribly searching way, to find out what you knew, and applying it to the general philosophy of life. When I recall him now, I always have in my memory the impression of a wise man. There was nothing

AN APPRECIATION

ordinary about him, and the least ordinary was the unique richness and moral glow of his language. I speak of him, of course, as I knew him at home, and I do not stand as judge for the experiences of other men. He was of all things broadly human, and all the philosophy that really interested him, was the philosophy that came down to the very hearth, if I may so put it, of man. Life, and the practical problems of life, were the 'trade-marks,' of all his teaching. He recognised the value of 'digging into the dead guts of things,' but he recognised the limits of such research and gave it its due place in the educational economy. Wisdom, not mere knowledge, love, reverence, moderation, were for him the cardinal virtues with which to reach to the highest of all attainable virtues, truth.

Of other memories, I have that of the first letter he wrote to me, in which he said,—'I know you will have the good sense not to be offended with the rough and unceremonious way in which I have sometimes contradicted your propositions. Contradiction is useful for all, and those who cannot learn from contradiction will remain mere special pleaders for their own point of view all their lives, and never know what wisdom means. The grand thing is to start in life with a deep conviction of the vastness of the world and the smallness of man, and to fling out broad arms of loving appreciation and reverential regard to all the phases of the true, the good, and the beautiful, which make up this eternal divine miracle called the world, which is in very deed the living architecture, poetry, sculpture, painting,

and music of the one self-existent, plastic, all-embracing *logos* of which the biggest man is only a small fraction. Above all things, avoid the temptation of wishing to appear clever and smart ; cleverness is only valuable as an unconscious accompaniment of an honest reality, such as the bicker of a mountain tarn or the flashing of a trout in a stream. Read the Sermon on the Mount, or the twelfth of Romans, or 1 Cor. xiii., at least once a week, and act them out every day of the week and every hour of the day. Know above all things what Goethe preaches as emphatically as St Paul, that *love is the fulfilling of the law* ; it is the regular steam power of the soul, or electricity—if you please—of the moral world, “knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.” There is no constructive, no shaping power, in mere knowledge, it merely supplies materials for the motive power, and the regulative reason to use for the realisation of a noble ideal divinely rooted in the nature of a noble soul.’

Many years ago Thomas Carlyle wrote of John Stuart Blackie : ‘A man of lively intellectual faculties, of ardent friendly character, and of wide speculation and acquirement, very fearless, very kindly, without ill-humour and without guile.’ A very kindly estimation, coming as it does from the Sage of Chelsea, remembering how severe were many of the judgments he passed on those even with whom he was in the closest personal relationship ; a much more charitable estimation of the man than the previous one from the letter of Carlyle to Emerson, in which the ‘notable monster,’ looking only at the time upon Blackie’s

exuberant presentation, and not troubling to get down to the soul of the man, spoke of him as 'a man of more sail than ballast.'

John Stuart Blackie, indeed, had plenty of sail. His barque was always in good working order, to sail 'away, away down the stream,' but at the same time it was always well-braced, and the hand that guided was never off the rudder. Too many candid critics, in their notices of his life, have failed in the want of mental perspective to grasp the fact, that Professor Blackie's many exuberant outbursts in public were simply the outcome of a vast amount of animal spirit, and a resultant of the fact, that with the exception of these public appearances, he had few other means of mental detraction. At home, accustomed to a hard and persistent intellectual life, serious, thoughtful, and ascetic, he sought in the catholic sphere of the popular platform a relief from 'sitting with moody pains and anxious peering looks, clogging the veins of laden brains with the dust of maundering books.' No longer tied down by philosophic consecutiveness and scientific accuracy, he found, in the less exacting, but more humanising atmosphere of the popular platform an outcome for his bright presentation of the beauties, physical and ethical, of this beautiful world. It is not true that these lectures were delivered off-hand without preparation. Down to the smallest action of life, that was not Blackie's method. However unimportant the occasion, however comparatively unimportant in the economy of things, the subject, yet it demanded, and received from him, the most earnest investigation

and meditation. The facts, and the matured consideration of the facts, were there, however much, in the joy and healthy exuberance of the moment, he omitted reference to his manuscript, left the more limited fields of the specific subject on hand, and wandered into the richer growths of Socrates, Goethe, Aristotle, and St Paul. And even when on occasion something more than usually extravagant was hurled at the heads of a sympathetic audience, on consideration of this, perhaps, humorous aphorism, it would lend one more and more to the belief in a popular dictum, that 'there is generally more in Blackie's nonsense, than in most people's sense.'

Unless this aspect of the question is carefully borne in mind, and an attempt at estimation be founded on the knowledge of how earnest, persistent and scientific a student he was, and how much important work was evolved in his life-time, one will be apt to arrive at that false conclusion which some critics of the man have arrived at. I grant it was difficult to picture in the jovial, lively, often very eccentric, figure of the platform, the quiet, serious methodical man of the library, the eager and reverential searcher after truth. Dr Whyte's metaphor was a happy one when he said, 'Like Socrates, he was not unlike those Athenian busts of Silenus, which had pipes and flutes in their mouths, but open them and there was the image of a God.'

And in this connection I might tell my only Blackie 'story.' Not long ago he paid a visit to the sanctum of an Edinburgh publisher, and mentioned that he had lectured the previous night on Scottish

Home Rule. The publisher said, 'I am astonished at your fondness for making an exhibition of yourself.' Professor Blackie, without another word, turned on his heel and went away, slamming the door. Presently he came back, opened the door, thrust in his head and said, 'Do you know that's just what my wife tells me !'

Certain it is that the popularity and affection which he enjoyed in his native land as a professor, increased in volume and geographical extent when he became a public lecturer. And it was no mean gift which enabled the close student of philology and philosophy to so re-cook his academic dishes, as to satisfy the appetites of the extra-mural world. And that he succeeded in doing so is testified by all. His studies in German literature and philosophy gave him ample scope to lecture on the practical philosophy of Goethe, to preach to them of 'the three reverences,' and the practical and far-seeing maxium, 'that the world is governed by wisdom, by authority and by show ;' his classical attainments and his intimate acquaintance with the wise men of Greece gave him the foundation for his popular re-dressing of the Socratic, Platonic and Aristotelean philosophies.

Writing to Dr Walter Smith on the 9th of March last, a few days after the Scottish people had laid him with kingly honours in the Dean Cemetery, Sir Theodore Martin wrote of his old friend : 'It was impossible not to love him—not only for his fiery energy and determination to work out for good whatever power God had given him, but for the truly original purity of his nature.' And this 'determina-

tion to work out for good whatever power God had given him,' was evinced in every step he took towards work. The knowledge of the most fruitful source for the utilisation of his powers came slow at first. Trammelled by the limitations of his early northern environment, and ungifted in his youth with any particular inspiration to recognise the superior merits of any particular profession, a brief sojourn, in the attempt to grapple with the lower branches of the law in Aberdeen, was soon dispelled by an accidental occurrence of a depressing kind, acting on a nature yet untrained to treat such fatalities philosophically. He became troubled about his 'inner life,' and we find him attempting to get some breath into the lungs of his moral nature by a nearly fatal course of morbid introspection. But there was a wise man of Aberdeen, called Forbes, and his timely remark that Blackie 'wanted his jacket widening,' had the desired result of dragging him from the narrowing influences of the theology of his own native Universities, and planting him among the philosophers of Germany and of Italy. All these influences, all these environments at Aberdeen, at Edinburgh, in Germany, in Italy, and afterwards in Greece, and again while studying for the Bar in Edinburgh, had important bearings upon his character, upon his moral and intellectual aspect. No doubt, from his early training, he received that tendency to see so much that was to be admired in the religious history and systems of his forefathers, and no doubt, too, in these early days the influence of a wise father first stimulated him with a love, to become a passion in its intensity, for the romantic

traditions and associations of his beloved Scotland.

To his German environment can be traced that influence which lead him to grasp with a firm hand, a philosophical interpretation of the history of the world, to obtain for the first time a clear conception of the philosophic attitude which should always be found in the academic teacher; and also to his German influences can be traced most of those broad, Catholic tendencies which were to be found in after years in whatever he wrote or spoke on questions of a theological, moral and social nature.

The general influence of his theological training in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Germany, found expression from time to time in his warm interest in the methods of different theological and ecclesiastical systems and in the interpretations of them, of the fundamental points of the foundations of Christian Church Government.

From Italy, no doubt, came his interest in architecture, art and archaeology, especially the latter; in fact, it was by the merest chance that he escaped taking up the subject as the chief element in his life work.

And of his Hellenistic environment it is only necessary to say, that it was the source of all his vigorous pursuit of the question treating of the philological connection between what are called ancient and modern Greek.

To this must be added his training for the Bar, which, considered purely abstractly, must have had a considerable influence in adding an analytical as well

as a synthetical power to his estimation of all questions, and which certainly made of him a cautious and a systematic man in all the more practical concerns of life.

Accordingly, in an analysis of his complex personality, we would have to trace the various sources of this and that characteristic and find out the remnants of Blackie the introspective student of theology, Blackie the German, Blackie the archæologist, Blackie the lawyer, Blackie the Hellenist, and lastly, Blackie the philologist, all tending to the Blackie as we knew him—Blackie the philosopher and seer.

But up to the time when we find him admitted a member of the Scottish Bar, we trace no definite evidence of that intense love for the beauties and the inspirations of Nature, which became so evident in his later years, and from which sprang most that was eloquent not only in his verse, but in all his interpretation of the meanings of God's creation. It was at the time when he first caught the glamour from the hills, 'his glorious Bens,' as he called them, that we find him pouring forth his best utterances in verse. The genesis of his poetry, the poetry of religion and life in their broadest meanings, dates from a time after the genesis of his broad Catholic philosophy in Germany, and when once the glory of the hills was upon him, the influence of this new light never left him. Hereafter he sought Nature as the fountain head of his philosophy; hereafter Nature became the important word in his vocabulary. Nature in teaching—Nature in song—Nature in religion—and although in most of his poetical works 'the æsthetical,' as Miss

Stoddart says, 'was subservient to the ethical,' yet much of his best work in this direction is to be found in those poems which speak of the beauties of Nature in its unpeopled nakedness. Nature, as representing the revelations of the brown heath and shaggy wood, the mountain and the flood. True, again, in all his pictures of the presentations and changes of Nature, he never caught the glamour and mystery of Nature itself, as for instance it was caught by Robert Buchanan in his 'Coruisken Sonnets.' Both Blackie and Buchanan came under the influence of similar spells in the Western Highlands, and it is curious to compare the mystic interpretations of Buchanan with the ethical interpretation of Blackie.

It would be as impossible for me in the space I have at my disposal, as it would be idle at this early hour, to attempt to form a true estimate of Blackie's literary work. It is a long cry from the translation of 'Faust' in 1833 to his 'Christianity and The Ideal of Humanity' in 1893, and during those years some 40 volumes saw the light of day. Of this work it would be impossible to say that it all rises to an equal standard of comparative excellence, and to judge correctly of the value of his contribution to literature, one must not lose sight of the fact, that much of it was intended only to be of a comparatively ephemeral nature, rather to act as a stimulus at the moment, than to remain a permanent monument on the question or questions concerned. Under this category must be placed several of his volumes of essays; many of them full of sound sense, keen judgment and rare discrimination, and all written in that nervous, forcible

English so characteristic of the man. In fact, there are or were few of his contemporaries who possessed in such a marked degree that power to rouse. It was the mightiest gift of Carlyle, in a less degree it is one of the powers of Ruskin, and, in John Stuart Blackie's case, it assured for him that great influence on a people which was evidenced over and over again, not the least remarkably, on March 2d last.

Excluding, then, this work of a comparatively ephemeral nature, we are left with some very important contributions, which critics of standing have accorded no mean place in the niche of literature. His translations of 'Homer,' 'Æschylus,' 'Faust,' have called forth the praise of those entitled to judge, and if his 'Homer' never received that recognition in the classical world which its 'profound scholarship and research, clear insight, healthy feeling and great literary power' (to quote a contemporary criticism) deserved, the secret might be found in the fact that it emanated from a Scottish University. In connection with this translation, a learned German remarks, that 'it was a happy thought of Blackie's to render the great "Volks Epos" (people's poem) of Greece into the metre familiar to his countrymen in their own folk songs.' In concluding an exhaustive criticism of the work at the time, a leading critic said, 'the work is a proof of the vitality and high aims of Scottish scholarship, and reflects the greatest honour on the university and country in which it has been produced.'

The following two passages of a somewhat different

nature will give some idea of the metre and spirit of the translation :—

‘Thus he ; and stretched his arm to clasp his infant son so dear,

But on the breast of his well-ezoned nurse the babe shrunk back with fear,

Scared at the gleam of the barnished brass which cased that warrior dread,

And screamed to see the horse-hair crest high nodding o'er his head.

The father laughed, the mother smiled ; then Hector brave unbound

The helmet from his head, and laid it glittering on the ground,

And kissed his son, and dandled him aloft with fondest joy ;

Then to greet Jove and all the gods, thus prayed to bless the boy :

Jove, and ye mighty gods, grant this my son, one day, may be As I am now to Trojan men—the bulwark of the free ;

Ruling o'er Troy by valorous might ; then from the hostile fray Shall some one see him home return, and thus shall proudly say :—

From a good sire a better son hath rescued Troy to-day !

And when he bears proud trophies through the sounding streets of Troy,

His mother shall behold her son, and her heart shall leap for joy !

He spake : and to his dear wife's hands he gave the lovely child ;

She took him to her balmy breast, and, through her weeping, smiled.’

‘But now the hosts together rushed, and each did each assail, And buckler upon buckler rang, and hurtled mail on mail, And might of man did might oppose, flashed spear to spear and rang

The war-cry loud and shrill, and shield met shield with brassy clang ;

And many a shout and many a yell to heaven commingled goeth

From men who struck and men who fell ; the field with crimson floweth.

As when fierce wintry torrents down some grey hill's deep-scarr'd side

Pour to the glen the headlong force of their foamy-hissing tide

Sheer through the black ravine, with fountains ever fresh supplied ;
While perched on some high crag the swain hears the shrill
tempest's rattle ;
So swelled from host to host the din, and rang the yell of battle.'

And from a host of congratulatory letters from scholars and others, I offer no apology for quoting these words of a poet. Writing on 7th November 1866, Robert Buchanan said, 'My learning goes far enough to allow me to apply the *poetic* test to your work. So far as I have read, no Homer has so delighted me since Chapman, but Chapman was quite guiltless of the fine Ionian flavour which you give so admirably.'

But more important, perhaps, than the mere translation itself are the Dissertations and Notes prefixed, and much as I personally feel as to the importance of these, I prefer again to quote my critic.

'They form an essential part of the purpose of the whole work—the presentation of the real Homer to modern readers. So completely has Professor Blackie had his eye fixed on this his main object, that he has omitted to discuss the authorship of the *Odyssey*, and the vexed questions connected with it. This is the one serious omission in the Dissertations. With this one exception, they form by far the best and ablest exposition of Homeric questions in English. As we have said already, English scholars have shamefully neglected this part of philology. The only important works on the subject are the works of men who are not professionally scholars—Gladstone, Grote, and Mure. Gladstone's is the work of a great intellect,

but it is written under very heavy disadvantages. He was unacquainted with almost the entire history of Homeric discussions on the Continent within the last fifty years, and with the books published during that period on the subject. In fact, he seems to have prejudged the whole matter, and therefore kept his eyes shut. Grote was well acquainted with the recent discussions, but it did not fall within his province to take up many of the Homeric questions. Mure, on the other hand, had both full knowledge of the literature and ought to have handled all the questions ; and in many respects his discussion is of great value. But he took up an entirely false position : he criticised Homer very much from the point of view of the last century. He regarded Homer evidently as a man of profound reflection ; he treats him as if he were a cultivated and widely-read poetic artist—in fact, he deals with him very much as he might deal with Milton ; and, therefore, he saw no necessity for discussing some of the most important Homeric questions. Professor Blackie has thus had a comparatively unoccupied field ; and he certainly has done his work admirably. Every page teems with learning ; but this learning is thoroughly under control. He shows a complete acquaintance with all the important works on Homer. He has gone in every case to the sources ; and he has discussed some of the questions—such as that on the amount of truth contained in tradition—with originality and insight. He has also compressed the results of his research into comparatively small compass. Some of the chapters—such as those on the state of the text and the labours of Zenodotus

and Aristarchus and the Alexandrian critics generally—contain information that can be got nowhere else, except in monographs by German scholars, and now partially in Hayman. And these Dissertations have the merit of being very readable. Professor Blackie has managed to throw life and interest about many a dry point. Throughout all his discussions, Professor Blackie is conservative. He believes strongly in the unity of the *Iliad*, in a real Homer, in a real Trojan war, in a real Achilles and Agamemnon. He has contrived most skilfully to deepen this impression of reality as he goes on ; and somehow one gets to think that he knows more of Homer and the Trojan war from Professor Blackie's book than from any other author's whatever.'

'The mythological notes are in some respects the most important in the volume. The scientific treatment of mythology, as exhibited in the writings of Otfried Müller, Gerhard, Preller, Welcker, Schwartz, and others, is not represented by a single book in English ; and the student will find the results of these, so far as they pertain to Homer, stated for the first time in these notes. Professor Blackie deserves more than the credit of stating results. He has not merely exhibited the thoughts of others, but he has given the results of his own much-matured thought and original investigation.'

'The archæological notes are very curious. They show, perhaps more than anything else, the thoroughness with which Professor Blackie has mastered his subject. He has got hold of all the out-of-the-way discussions on Homeric zoology, botany, metallurgy,

archery, armour, and other such matters; and the reader will find information in these notes on the history of the arts and sciences at once interesting and rare.'

In danger of losing the perspective of my appreciation, I have allowed myself to dwell further on this work than may seem advisable, but I am convinced that insufficient justice has been done by the reading world to these Dissertations and Notes, and I am also convinced that a separate re-publication of this part of the work would be acceptable to many scholars interested in these vexed questions.

Of his translation of 'Faust,' I can add nothing to the high praise accorded by such men as Thomas Carlyle and George Henry Lewes, and for his masterly translation of *Æschylus*, in which work Professor Blackie was seen at his best as a translator, it is sufficient to say that it eventually procured for him the Greek Chair in the University of Edinburgh.

But, in my humble opinion, my uncle's best work is not to be found either in his 'Homer' or his '*Æschylus*' or in his 'Faust,' but firstly, in his contributions to *Blackwood* and *Tait* and the *Foreign Quarterly* on German history and literature, and secondly, in his volume entitled 'The Wise Men of Greece.' It is impossible to speak too highly of the intimate knowledge of the German language, literature and spirit which enabled him to contribute so much that was important to our knowledge of that important sphere of the world's history and literature, and the highest tribute there could be paid him,—tribute higher than even the praise of Carlyle, — was the

praise and gratitude of many of the German critics. Writing shortly after his death, a contemporary said, 'Dr Kirchner writes for the *Illustrierte Zeitung* a notice of his career, full of appreciative criticism of his work, and of the sympathy with those who are mourning his loss. Written by a foreigner, the sketch is of special interest, as affording striking proof of the wide influence which, by his writings, Blackie acquired outside his own country, and also because it lays stress on a phase of his literary activity which we in Scotland have perhaps hardly realised at its true value. "We in Germany," says Dr Kirchner, "owe grateful recognition to those who, by study and translation of our literature, use their best endeavours to win for it the appreciation of their countrymen. Among these John Stuart Blackie has a foremost place. Blackie has, in fact, done more than most men, as much as any one man except Thomas Carlyle, to bridge over the gap which unquestionably exists between the English and German mind, to clear away the thick atmosphere of misconception and prejudice which even Englishmen of wide culture find it difficult to ignore."

The contributions to German literature and history include not only his 'Faust,' and the articles above mentioned, but also his 'Wisdom of Goethe,' a volume of precious gems translated from the works of the greatest of German poets. 'Having in my personal experience,' he says, 'had reason to thank God that at an early period of my life I became acquainted with the writings of this great man, it occurred to me that I could not do better service to the intelligent youth of this generation, for whom it has been my duty and

pleasure to work through a long life, than to lay before them in a systematic form the most significant *dicta* on the important problems of sound thinking and noble living. As Dr Kirchner says, "In these reflections, maxims and verses, it is not difficult to trace the master-mind that inspired Blackie's 'Self-Culture.'"

Important also are Professor Blackie's numerous translations of the Studentenlieder, Volkslieder and War-songs of the Fatherland. Particularly the latter, all of them full of the true martial ring, the force and fire of the old Border ballads, including the translation of the 'Battle Prayer' of Korner 'Vater ich rufe dich'—the most beautiful of soldiers' prayers in the world's literature,

'Clouds from the thunder-voiced cannon envail me,
Lightnings are flashing, death's thick darts assail me ;
Ruler of battles, I call on thee,
Father, O lead me !'

Of 'The Wise Men of Greece,' I need only say that Professor Blackie considered this to be his most important contribution to literature. And when we come to examine the volume, we see in what a masterly and scholarly fashion he has portrayed 'the philosophical significance, the intellectual dignity and moral power,' of such men as Socrates, Pythagoras, Xenophanes and Empedocles. To quote his own words to Tom Taylor, 'I can only tell you that scholars and thinkers will get here no mere soap-bubbles lightly blown for a summer's recreation, but the produce of hard work and years of study. I had no ambition, even if I had had the ability, to make a Pythagoras or an Empedocles, a mere mouthpiece

to spout my sentiments. I strove everywhere to give a true picture of what was actually thought and said by these old worthies, or at least of what lay in their most distinctive maxims by plain implication ; and if the lines of the portraiture shall seem to agree in a very striking way, sometimes, with certain recent phases of modern thought, or the obvious opposite of these phases, this is not that I have interpolated anything which, to the best of my judgment, did not lie in the original, but because the fundamental principles of all wisdom have always been present in the spiritual world wherever human beings in a normal state of culture have lived and thought. Reason is the light of the soul ; and though, like the sun in the heavens, it may be largely overclouded, and shine only by glimpses for a space, yet it is always there ; and the glimpse, whenever it appears, is a sure prophecy of the full radiance, which under favourable circumstances will surely be revealed.'

The whole is comprised in a series of ten dramatic dialogues, which are as rich in language as they are in wisdom.

Of his prose works, besides those I have mentioned, three stand out,—‘The Four Phases of Morals,’ the essay ‘On Beauty,’ and ‘Self-Culture.’ In the first, to use the words of the present Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, ‘Professor Blackie has given us a valuable addition to ethical literature full of important exposition and criticism ;’ of the second ‘On Beauty ;’ Dr John Brown had written, ‘If I am mistaken not, there is more in the honest instincts, the broad sympathies, the genuine philosophy

and cordial love of all that is lovable, as expressed in these discourses, to take and to hold, and to impress the great mass of thinking men and women, than in all else that our century has yet seen, not excepting my own great Ruskin.' Of 'Self-Culture' I need not speak at length. It has been far and away the most widely circulated of all John Stuart Blackie's works, went through eleven editions in eight years, is now in its twenty-fifth, and has been translated into eleven different languages. As far north as the land of the Finns, south in the sunny lands of Italy and Spain, east of Suez amongst the many-tongued people of the Indian empire, this book has been read and re-read. Its simple, robust, straightforward common sense, has made it a power of its kind, and a power for good, difficult to estimate. 'It is many years ago since I read his "Self-Culture," wrote Professor Seth; 'but it seemed to me then to be a masterpiece of its kind, full of the wisdom of life, ripe and true.' The germ of 'Self-Culture' is in these words quoted in 'The Wisdom of Goethe'—'Every man must think for himself, and he will always find upon his path some truth or, at least, a kind of truth, that will keep him through life. Yet he dare not allow himself to drift. He must be self-controlled. Mere naked instinct does not become a man.' 'How can a man learn to know himself?' asks Goethe, 'By reflection never, only by action. In the measure in which thou seekest to do thy duty shalt thou know what is in thee. But what is thy duty? The demand of the hour.'

In the region of poetry, from which I have selected for this volume many of the gems, besides his trans-

lations from the German, the Greek and the Latin, we must not omit reference to his translations from the Gaelic. These are in most cases extremely faithful, and convey the spirit of the original in a remarkable way. As an example, let me recommend the translation of Duncan Ban's 'Ben Dorain,' which will be found in this volume. As in an introduction I have spoken of his chief contributions to verse in other directions, it is not necessary for me to dwell further upon the subject.

It is not for me in this place to dwell on the many important affairs of a practical nature which engaged John Stuart Blackie throughout his life. These are all told in detail in Miss Stoddart's pages, and my reader will turn there for the history of the movement for university reform, the history of the foundation of the Celtic Chair, his endeavours in the question of reform in matters pertaining to education, his institution of travelling Greek fellowships, his work in the Greek and Latin classes, and last, but not least, the record of his persistent preaching in and out of season on the subject of the philological continuance of the Greek language and of the pronunciation of such. On this subject let me quote from a letter of M. Gennadius, ex-Envoy from the King of Greece.

'Greek newspapers received from Athens and other parts of Greece, contain obituary notices of the late Professor Blackie, all couched in terms of fond attachment and affectionate respect for the memory of one who was considered as much Greek in heart and mind as those in the Levant who now mourn his loss. He had made himself more known among the Greeks.

speaking populations in the East, and he had entered more thoroughly into their habits of thought and modes of speech than many scholars who visited Greece more often, or sojourned longer there than he had done. It may even be said that he was more full of a vivid conception of the language and life of ancient and modern Greece than they. To what was this attributable? He learned, considered and taught Greek as a living, not as a dead language. He did not confine its ranges within the narrow and artificial limits of Atticism, or even of Classicism ; but recognised that Greek, as a tongue actually in use, has an unbroken record of 3000 years ; that contemporary Greek presents one of the most interesting and most remarkable periods of an existence ever changing because ever alive. Finally, to quote from one of his letters to the *Times*, 'He did not perpetrate the English absurdity of pronouncing the language of Pericles and Plato with the vocalism of John Bull, and the accentuation of Old Cato, the Censor.'

And before he died it was one of his greatest joys to learn that the seed he had sown was bearing fruit, and letters from M. Drakoules and others from Oxford and elsewhere, cheered him with the news that emancipation had begun.

However many may differ as to the comparative merits and demerits of John Stuart Blackie's literary, academic and public works, no two opinions can be held with regard to the absolute sincerity and unassailable honesty of the man. Never have I met or heard of a man who was so absolutely truthful—truthful in word, truthful in deed—never did I know one who so

absolutely refused to sacrifice one iota that a lie might be uttered or perpetuated.

*'No dread of censure, and no lack of praise,
Turned thee to right or left.'*

If at times he seemed unreasonable in his persistency, it was because he was thoroughly convinced of the rectitude of his action. And this absolute honesty he carried into all his work. Here there was no trimming, no manufacture of facts to suit theories, his methods were absolutely scientific ; many may have disputed his opinions, none ever disputed his facts. He tells us, as Mr Morley says of Goethe, 'the whole truth.' Over and over again have I seen him spend what appeared a superfluous amount of time, to find out the accuracy of a statement or fact, and so careful was he to keep in control the knowledge which he possessed, so careful so as to have it stored away in his brain that it might be reproduced with accuracy, that he often used to say to me,— 'Don't tell me what you think, tell me what you know !'

A good deal has been said with regard to Professor Blackie's supposed vanity. To me, who knew him in many phases of his mental and moral attitude, this charge of vanity is simply inexplicable. I never knew anybody so humble, so reverential, so careless of opinion. No vain man is humble, no vain man is truly reverential, every vain man is sensitive to a degree to opinion. Of course, he had tinges occasionally of what he called 'Oldie' (Old Adam), but so strong was his power of inhibition that these were quickly

trodden down. A vain man is never charitable to those who attack him—Professor Blackie never spoke a harsh word against any man in his life. Some have even mentioned his dress as an evidence of his vanity, but would it be news for the public to learn that he never knew when he had adorned himself with new clothes. At night-time the old clothes were removed and new ones were substituted, and he lived in ignorance of the fact. He was so much above the consideration of his sartorial environment, that had it not been for the kindly and studied care of his devoted wife, we are afraid he would have cut a very sorry figure indeed. That he was one of the most picturesque figures of the day was hardly his fault, and only arose from the fact that Mrs Blackie thought it no crime to dress a naturally handsome and picturesque man in a picturesque manner.

Of his charity, I cannot speak too highly. To an opponent he behaved in a manner that was often quixotic. He never judged harshly ; he never attributed motives. When spiteful, sometimes cruel letters came to him, and we around his fireside gave vent to our honest indignation, in that sweet, fascinating way of his, he would bid us be charitable and would in many ways try to find a justification for the offender. Not that this ever detracted from his stern sense of duty which sometimes made him give vent to the expression, — ‘Bad boys should be thrashed.’ As for what he gave away to the poor, only a very few knew his great, unostentatious liberality. This was one of the most beautiful traits of his character, and if he erred at all, it was that

sometimes an unworthy person gained by the largeness of his heart. Many a poor, struggling literary man ; many a poor, weak, broken-down schoolmaster, or impoverished student has had cause to thank God that John Stuart Blackie was alive. 'Many a poor man and woman will miss the half-crown and the jest—that made the pocket a little heavier, and the heart a little lighter.'

Of other marked characteristics may be mentioned his reverence and his patriotism. His reverence I have hinted at, and this virtue weighed so much with him, that it may with safety be said that it was the genesis of all his aspect to the Creator, and to the moral systems of the world. 'Think upon your knees,' was his metaphorical way of picturing the attitude of reverence which he deemed right in our intellectual life, and it was in this attitude that he himself went through life.

Reverence for, not fear of, the great all-ruling '*logos*' of the Universe, the 'all-father,' the dispenser and reasoning ruler of all the wonders of nature.

'Write them Jove, Buddha, Allah, Elohim,
Apollo, Krishna, Vishna, Great All-father
Or great All-mother, if it please you rather,
They are but names that sound one self-same theme,
Soul of all souls, and of all causes cause.'

And this reverence for the fatherhood was carried into the practical affairs of his life. It tempered his judgment, it made richer his charity, it broadened his conception of the variety of life. 'Keep yourself,' he wrote, 'always in an attitude of reverential dependence on the supreme source of all good. It is the

most natural and speediest and surest antidote against that spirit of shallow self-confidence and brisk impertinence so apt to spring up with the knowledge without charity, which puffeth up and edifieth not.'

One of his favourite, perhaps the favourite, of his illustrations bearing on this aspect of reverence was taken from Goethe, and may be quoted in his own translation of Goethe's words. 'There is one thing by means of which every man that is born into the world becomes truly manly. This thing is reverence, of which there are three kinds, or, if you will, three stages. These we endeavour to implant in the minds of our pupils with the symbolical accompaniment of three attitudes or postures. The first kind is reverence for that which is above us, and the attitude connected with this is that in which, with the arms crossed over the breast, our pupils are taught to look joyfully towards the heavens. By this we ask from them an acknowledgment that there is a God on high, who reflects and reveals Himself in the person of parents, teachers and superiors. The second type is reverence for that which is beneath us. The hands clasped as though bound behind the back, the downward, smiling look, in the attitude belonging to the type indicate that we should look upon the earth graciously and cheerfully, for it is the earth that affords us means of subsistence and the source of innumerable joys. But from this attitude we set our pupil free as soon as possible, the moment we are assured the lesson it is intended to convey has had its proper effect, then we call on him to brace himself like a man, and turning to his comrades to 'pit himself against them. Now he

stands firm and bold, but not selfishly isolated. Only in conflict with his fellows can the young man learn to face the world. Our third attitude indicates this ; standing upright and with forward look, they take their stations no longer singly, but linked together in a row.'

Then again. 'The religion which is founded on reverence for what is above us we call *ethnic*, or as it is in vulgar English, *heathen*. It is the religion of the nations, and the first happy deliverance from abject fear. To this class belong all pagan religions, whatever names they may bear. The second type of religion founded upon the reverence we cherish for what is on a par with ourselves, we call philosophical ; for the philosopher, who takes a central position, must draw down to his level what is above, while he seeks to elevate what is below ; and only when in this middle state does he deserve the name of a sage. The third type is that founded on reverence for what is beneath us—this is Christianity, for in it chiefly is this sentiment dormant. It is the highest step in the ladder of reverence to which humanity can obtain. . . . From these three embodied types spring the consummation of all reverences, the reverence for our self, out of which the other three again develop themselves.'

And it is as well to note that he did not confuse the reverence for those great physical, intellectual, social and moral factors which in the ages have held the balance level for humanity, with that blind respect and worship of things born in prejudice, bred in ignorance, and perpetuated in mysticism. He was

always of the north and western world, though influenced by the wisdom which came from the east and south, and he had no respect for what would clog the higher developments of his human brothers.

When we come to analyse the Professor's religious belief, we find, as I have said, this reverence at the root of it all, and in the aspect of worship we find how wide, almost pantheistic, was his conception of the worship of the Creator. It was really, when we look at it, the first verse of the 19th psalm, and no choir, no chorus of human voices in any temple made by hands was half as expressive to him as the choir, whose units were the rippling brook, the roaring cataract, the heaven-pointing hills, and the changing clouds.

'Go not where sculptured tower or pictured dome
 Invites the reeking city's jaded throngs,
 Some hoar old shrine of Rhine-land or of Rome
 Where the dim aisle the languid hymn prolongs,
 Here rather follow me and take thy stand
 By the grey cairn that crowns the lone Dunee,
 And let thy breezy worship be the grand
 Old Bens, and the old grey knolls that compass thee ;
 The sky-blue waters and the snow white sand,
 And the quaint isles far sown upon the sea.'

And again, at Ardlui,—

'In sooth a goodly temple, walled behind
 With crag precipitous of granite grey,
 And by green birches corniced, which the wind
 Sowed o'er the rim in random rich display,
 And for a roof the azure-curtained hall,
 Light-floating cloud and broad benignant ray,
 And organed by the hum of waterfall
 And plash of bright waves in the gleaming bay.
 And here's the pulpit, the huge granite mass
 Erect, frost-sundered from the mossy crown

And there the people sit on turfy grass,
 And here the fervid preacher thunders down ;
 Go kneel beneath Saint Paul's proud dome and say,
 If God be nearer there, or here to-day.'

And again, in Arran, in that most eloquent pantheistic poem, 'A Sabbath Meditation'—

' In the high-domed fane,
 Glorious with all the legendary pomp
 Of pictured saints, where skilful singers swell
 The curious chant, or on the lonely hill
 Where, on grey cliff and purple heather shines
 The shadowless sun at noon. Thou hears't alike.
 Vainly the narrow wit of narrow men
 Within the walls which priestly lips have blest,
 In the fixed phases of a formal creed
 Would crib Thy presence ; Thou art more than all
 The shrines that hold Thee ; and our wisest creeds
 Are but the lisplings of a forward child
 To spell the Infinite.'

And finally, in his eloquent apology for the poor Hindoos in his 'Trimurti.'

' Farewell ! your creed may nevermore be mine,
 I hold one God, but many forms Divine ;
 Your's best—so be it ! but I may not bind
 My heart to worship only in one kind ;
 Nor where flowers prink the mead with diverse hue
 Let one bright bloom usurp my wondering view ;
 And they are wise who love with like regard
 Both rose and lily, where to choose is hard.
 Leave me, my friend, the luxury of my error,
 To think that creeds are but a broken mirror
 With thousand suns for one that lights the skies,
 And one truth imaged in a thousand lies !'

God, to him, was soul of all soul and substance of all creeds, and his interpretation of the meaning of the Trinity, was Thought, Word and Deed. Thought, the Father, Deed, the Son, and Word the Holy Spirit. His religion 'was one glowing furnace hot

with moral emotion rather than the outcome of a theology bristling with stereotyped dogma and scholastic formulas.' It was a religion of action, of morals, of personal inhibition. In a sonnet to Mr Findlay of Aberlour, a wise and good landlord, he said :—

‘Not all who catch the breeze can guide the ship,
Not all who mount the car can rein the steed,
Not all can quaff good wine with sober lip,
Some make their lives a slander on their creed.’

His ship was ever off the rock, not always riding smoothly, for—

‘Far better to be tempest driven
Than rot upon the harbour mud,’

but never stranded.

With a steady hand he reined the steed, and his temperate, guileless and noble life was a better demonstration of his religious belief than all the creeds his lips could utter.

It was the love of the natural in religion that made him such an admirer of the æsthetic in places of worship which, indeed, inspired him in a sonnet to his old friend Dr M'Gregor of St Cuthbert's to write :—

‘Thou are wise to feel
The pulse of the time and from high mitred station
Bring chant and hymn with soul compelling power
To fling a grace in worship's praiseful hour
O'er the grave-visaged Presbyterian nation.’

No doubt, much of the reverence in his nature helped to keep alive that intense passion for Fatherland which coloured most of his utterances on educational and social questions. Reverence for those who

had secured for Scotland their civil liberty at Bannockburn and their religious liberty at Drumclog. To use the words of his friend, 'the wise young laird of Dalmeny,' as he was fond of calling Lord Rosebery, 'When we forget our individual national life as Scotsmen, you may be sure the history of Scotland has come to an end. The principle of nationality, I take to be this, that we should cling to everything essential to us as a historical nation, and because we are a historical nation we should remember with all the more pride that we are one of many nations that go to make up the greatest empire the world has ever seen.' Patriotism in the abstract to him was one of the greatest virtues of citizenship, and it hurt his right feelings of pride for the great historical traditions of his country, to see his countrymen forgetting that these traditions ever existed, that we never had a distinct national character, that we never inherited a distinctive type of manhood from the past, forgetting that Scotland was something more than a northern province of England. He himself rejoiced every day in the traditions and heritages of his beloved country —the traditions of civil and religious strifes and conquest, the heritages of poetry and of song. As I have said, patriotism in the abstract he counted among the higher virtues, and it is with this view that we hear him speak in such high terms of the three greatest national demonstrations he had witnessed—the first, when the German troops entered Berlin after the Franco-German war; the second, the Jubilee procession in London in 1887; and the third, when he himself at Bannockburn, in the presence of thousands

of the Scottish people, unfurled the banner on the Borestone.

This was not the only occasion on which he took the principal part in a demonstration markedly Scottish in character. Some years ago he inaugurated a monument to Peden at Cumnock, in the presence of four thousand people; and in 1864, he made one of his most eloquent public appearances, when at Sanquhar he was present at the inauguration of an obelisk at the market cross, the place where Richard Cameron and his compatriots published their famous 'Declaration,' and which, eight years after, shook the Stuarts from the throne. 'There, then and afterwards,' in the words of Mr Tod, 'at the Old Castle, Blackie delivered great and glowing speeches; and in reference to the persecuted Covenanters, thundered out the lines carved upon the tall column :—

'If you would know the nature of their crime,
Then read the story of that killing time.'

He loved to the end his 'ain Doric,' the sibilants of his 'ain braid Scots,' that language which Ruskin, in a letter to me, spoke of as 'the sweetest, subtlest, richest, most musical of all the living dialects of Europe,' he loved his Scottish songs, he loved the Scottish people, he loved his Scottish land.

'I've fed my eyes by land and sea,
With sights of grandeur streaming o'er me,
But still my heart remains with thee,
Dear Scottish land, that stoutly bore me.
O, for the land that bore me !
O, for the stout old land !
With mighty ben, and winding glen,
Stout Scottish land—my own, dear land.'

In conclusion, perhaps it is not necessary for me to state that John Stuart Blackie was essentially, in all the elements that made up his personality, a man of affirmation, a man of action. The mere apostle of negation, the mere cynic, the mere looker-on, the mocker, may interest or startle for the moment, only to perish like a flash of lightning. Blackie often startled, but the intellectual or moral agitation aroused in his hearers or readers rose not from the dreary still-birth of negations, or the dead bones of pessimistic diatribes, but rather from a too glowing assertion, perhaps, of some living potent maxim or problem touching something that had a living bearing on human hopes and human aspirations. Many of us may have been annoyed at his persistency, but he believed with Herbert Spencer, that 'only by varied iteration can alien conceptions be forced on reluctant minds.'

Whether the high priests of the higher criticism, the door-keeper of the dovecots of the purists in style, will admit him into their sanctum is a different question. Like a very opposite man, Voltaire, he rated literature much lower than truth and action. He never was a mere literary man, he had too strong a personality for that, and in all he wrote that personality was not lost sight of.

It is not a matter, then, for much surprise that this Happy Warrior, fighting to the end with his sword in hand for what he thought to be right, absolutely sincere, generous-hearted, 'a man without guile,' patriotic, reverential, should become beloved at home, revered abroad. Loved by his peers, loved by the high, loved by the low;—his bright, rich,

overflowing presentation, a lovable sight surely for gods and men. We will forgive him slapping the episcopal knee of Thirlwall, and for shaking Carlyle when he would not let his wife speak, because we knew how much of it was the result of his abnormal physical and mental vigour.

No one could come near him without being impressed with the greatness of his personality ; and no young man certainly could fail to be impressed with the spirit of a joy in all things of good report, could not avoid being impressed by him by his creed, that 'this is a world of stern realities.' All his influence was for good, 'in an age of pessimism he held high the banner of human hope and human aims.' 'Speaking the truth in love,' and 'All noble things are difficult,' were his favourite mottoes ; mottoes which helped him over many a hard stile in this, as he called it, 'pleasant pilgrimage.' He went through life working and singing. 'If you wish to be happy in this world, there are only three things that can secure you of your aim—the love of God, the love of truth, and the love of your fellowmen ; and of this divine triad, the best and most natural exponent in my estimate is, neither a sermon, nor a lecture, nor even a grand article in a quarterly review, but just simply a good song.'

'Rocking on a lazy billow
With roaming eyes,
Cushioned on a dreamy pillow
Thou art not wise.
Wake the power within thee sleeping,
Trim the plots that's in thy keeping,
Thou wilt bless the task when reaping
Sweet labour's prize.'

Work and wait, a sturdy liver
(Life fleetly flies),
Work and pray, and sing, and ever
Lift hopeful eyes.
Let no flaring folly din thee,
Wisdom when her charm may win thee,
Flows a well of life within thee,
Young man, be wise.'

Born on 25th July 1809, John Stuart Blackie passed on the 2nd of March 1895 into the valley of the dark shadow, within the 'door which, opening, letting in, lets out no more,' and was buried with all the honours which a city and nation could command, on March 6th. As Mr George Stronach says, 'everybody he loved, but not a tithe of those who loved him, was there to pay him a last homage ; Edinburgh, particularly the High Street, presenting a spectacle which has never been seen since the execution of Montrose, and will never again be seen in our days. 'I have seen,' he says, 'many impressive sights in historic St Giles' Cathedral, but nothing to equal the awful solemnity and the last honour paid to the great Scotsman, of whom we were all so justly proud. Rich and poor, high and low, the learned and the unlearned were gathered outside or inside the famous old shrine, and there were few dry eyes in the great crowd when the funeral car slowly made its way to the church.' But, as Professor Geddes puts it, 'the broad Cathedral was but the sounding chancel, the square and street, the silent transept and nave. Psalm and prayer, chorus and organ rolled their deepest, yet the service had a climax beyond the hallelujah, the pipes, as they led the procession slowly out, giving the "Land of the

Leal" a new pathos, and stirring the multitude with a penetrating and vibrating intensity, which is surely in no other music. The big man beside me broke down and sobbed like a child ; the lump comes back to one's own throat, the eyes dim again as one remembers it. It was a new and strange instrument ; strangest perhaps to those who knew well its musical call to dance, its demoniac scream and thrill of war. . . . In front went a long procession of societies headed by kilt and plaid ; behind came the mourning kinsmen, with the advocates, the Senate, the students and the Town Council in their varied robes ; then the interminable carriages of personal friends. But better than all these, the town itself was out ; the working people in their thousands and tens of thousands lined the way from St Giles' to the Dean ; the very windows and balconies were white with faces. Coming down the Mound, in full amphitheatre of Edinburgh, filled as perhaps never before, with hushed assemblage of city and nation, the pipers suddenly changed their song. . . . For those who were not there, the scene is well nigh as easy to picture as us to recall ; the wavy lane, close-walled with drawn and deepened faces, the long black procession marching slow, sprinkled with plaid and plume, crowded with college cap and gown, with civic scarlet and ermine, marshalled by black draped maces. In the midst the Black Watch pipers, marching their slowest and stateliest—then the four tall black-maned horses—the open bier, with plain, unpolished oaken coffin high upon a myriad of flowers, a mound of tossing lilies, with Henry Irving's lyre of violets, "To the beloved Professor," its silence fragrant at its

foot. Upon the coffin lay the Skye women's plaid, above his brow the Prime Minister's wreath, but on his breast a little mound of heather, opening into bloom.'

When on that spring morning the Scottish people had laid him to rest in the Dean Cemetery, he went as one of the last of those who had stood together in the days when his arm was strongest. Baron Bunsen and Edward Gerhard, 'the friends of his youth, and the directors of his early studies,' had long departed. Leigh Hunt and Thomas Carlyle, attached friends and early stimulators, had long closed their records. Moncreiff, a friend of the 'Spec.' days, Brewster, Lord Brougham, John Carlyle, Lord Cockburn, Froude, Kelland, Lushington, Dean Stanley, Tyndall Huxley and Manning, had all paid their last debts to nature. 'Rab,' the beloved Physician; Norman M'Leod, his soul bubbling over with human love and joy; Alexander Smith, with his life's tragedy unwritten; the sunny-souled Dean Ramsay, that metaphysical giant Sir William Hamilton, Sydney Dobell 'my chaste-souled Sydney,' Schliemann, Samuel Brown, Hunter of Craigcrook, D. O. Hill, Guthrie, 'the generous evangelist,' Robertson Smith, Alexander Nicholson, 'the Shirra,' Sir George Harvey and Robert Horne, friends indeed, Lord Neaves, Aytoun, Robert Wyld, the Duke of Sutherland, had all been laid to rest, most of them 'in good Scots clods.' Browning having written that 'he counted life just a stuff to try the soul's strength on,' had found his soul strong, and had gone unto the poet spirits that he loved of English race; and Tennyson had a few years before

'put out to sea.' Left to mourn their old comrade are Sir Theodore Martin, whom he loved well; Gladstone, the lord of destinies, who in a letter to Mr Kennedy had written that he 'looks back with interest, respect, and warm regard upon his life and acts; so genuine, so simple, so susceptible of a pure enthusiasm, so detached from self, so attached to things kindly, pure, and noble;' David Masson, *ultimus Scotorum* indeed, who said of his old friend as of Chaucer's knight,—

'He never yet no vileyne ne said
In all his life unto no maner wight.'

Walter Smith, his soul still uplifted on the wings of song, Campbell Fraser, Sir Douglas MacLagan, James M'Gregor, full of the fire of human sympathy; General Forlong, James Donaldson, Sir W. Geddes, John Forbes White, and others less known to the world, but none the less beloved, while she, the faithful and loving companion of fifty-three years, in her heart said with Tennyson—

' And doubtless unto thee is given
A life that bears immortal fruit,
In such great offices as suit
The full-grown energies of Heaven.'

believing with Keats, that

' There is budding morrow in midnight.'

ARCHIBALD STODART WALKER.

P O E M S

LAYS AND LYRICS

BEAUTIFUL WORLD

BEAUTIFUL world !

Though bigots condemn thee,
My tongue finds no words

For the graces that gem thee !
Beaming with sunny light,
Bountiful ever,
Streaming with gay delight,
Full as a river !

Bright world ! brave world !

Let cavillers blame thee !
I bless thee, and bend
To the God who did frame thee !

Beautiful world !

Bursting around me,
Manifold, million-hued
Wonders confound me !
From earth, sea, and starry sky,
Meadow and mountain,
Eagerly gushes
Life's magical fountain.

THE SELECTED POEMS OF

Bright world ! brave world !
 Though witlings may blame thee,
 Wonderful excellence
 Only could frame thee !

The bird in the greenwood
 His sweet hymn is trolling,
 The fish in blue ocean
 Is spouting and rolling !
 Light things on airy wing
 Wild dances weaving,
 Clods with new life in spring
 Swelling and heaving !
 Thou quick-teeming world,
 Though scoffers may blame thee,
 I wonder, and worship
 The God who could frame thee !

Beautiful world !
 What poesy measures
 Thy strong-flooding passions,
 Thy light-trooping pleasures ?
 Mustering, marshalling,
 Striving and straining,
 Conquering, triumphing,
 Ruling and reigning !
 Thou bright-armied world !
 So strong, who can tame thee ?
 Wonderful power of God
 Only could frame thee !

Beautiful world !
 While godlike I deem thee,
 No cold wit shall move me
 With bile to blaspheme thee !
 I have lived in thy light,
 And, when Fate ends my story,
 May I leave on death's cloud
 The bright trail of life's glory !
 Wondrous old world !
 No ages shall shame thee !
 Ever bright with new light
 From the God who did frame thee

THE SONG OF THE HIGHLAND RIVER

DEW-FED am I
 With drops from the sky,
 Where the white cloud rests on the old grey hill ;
 Slowly I creep
 Down the precipice steep,
 Where the snow through the summer lies freezingly
 still ;
 Where the wreck of the storm
 Lies shattered enorm,
 I steal 'neath the stone with a tremulous rill ;
 My low-trickling flow
 You may hear, as I go
 Down the sharp-furrowed brow of the old grey hill,
 Or drink from my well,
 Grass-grown where I dwell,
 The clear granite cell of the old grey hill.

In the hollow of the hill
 With my waters I fill
 The little black tarn where the thin mist floats ;
 The deep old moss
 Slow-oozing I cross,
 When the lapwing cries with its long shrill
 notes ;
 Then fiercely I rush to the sharp granite edge,
 And leap with a bound o'er the old grey ledge ;
 Like snow in the gale,
 I drive down the vale,
 Lashing the rock with my foamy flail ;
 Where the black crags frown,
 I pour sheer down,
 Into the caldron boiling and brown ;
 Whirling and eddying there I lie,
 Where the old hawk wheels, and the blast howls by.

From the treeless brae
 All green and grey,
 To the wooded ravine I wind my way,
 Dashing, and foaming, and leaping with glee,
 The child of the mountain wild and free.
 Under the crag where the stone-crop grows,
 Fringing with gold my shelvy bed,
 Where over my head
 Its fruitage of red,
 The rock-rooted rowan tree blushfully shows,
 I wind, till I find
 A way to my mind,
 While hazel, and oak, and the light ash tree,
 Weave a green awning of leafage for me.

Fitfully, fitfully, on I go,
Leaping, or running, or winding slow,
Till I come to the linn where my waters rush,
Eagerly down with a broad-face gush,

Foamingly, foamingly, white as the snow,
On to the soft green turf below ;
Where I sleep with the lake as it sleeps in the
glen,
Neath the far-stretching base of the high-peaked
Ben.

Slowly and smoothly my winding I make,
Round the dark-wooded islets that stud the clear
lake ;

The green hills sleep
With their beauty in me,
Their shadows the light clouds
Fling as they flee,

While in my pure waters pictured I glass
The light-plumed birches that nod as I pass.

Slowly and silently on I wend,
With many a bay and many a bend,
Luminous seen like a silvery line,,
Shimmering bright in the fair sunshine,
Till I come to the pass, where the steep red scaur
Gleams like a watch-fire seen from afar,

Then out I ride,
With a full-rolling pride,
While my floods like the amber shine ;
Where the salmon rejoice
To hear my voice,
And the angler trims his line.

Gentlier now, with a kindly slope,
The green hills lie to the bright blue cope,
And wider the patches of green are spread,
Which Time hath won from my shifting bed.

And many a broad and sunny spot,
Where my waters wend,
With a larger bend,

Shows the white-fronted brown-thatched cot,
Where the labouring man with sweatful care,
Hath trimmed him a garden green and fair,
From the wreck of the granite bare.

And many a hamlet, peopled well
With hard-faced workmen, smokes from the dell ;
Cunning to work with axe and hammer,
Cunning to sheer the fleecy flock,
Cunning, with blast and nitrous clamour,
To split the useful rock.

And many a rural church far-seen
Stands on the knolls of grassy green,
Where my swirling current flows ;
And, with its spire high-pointed, shows
How man, that treads the earthly sod,
Claims fatherhood from God.

Now broader and broader my rich bed grows,
And deeper and deeper my full tide flows ;
And, while onward I sail,
Like a ship to the gale,
With my big flood rolling amain,
The glen spreads out to a leafy vale,
And the vale spreads out to a plain.

And many a princely mansion good
Looks from the old thick-tufted wood,

 On my clear far-winding line.

And many a farm, with acres spread,
Slopes gently to my fattening bed,
The farm, whose broad and portly lord
Loads with rich fare the liberal board,

 And quaffs the ruby wine.

And richly, richly, round and round,
With green and golden pride, the ground
Swells undulant, gardened o'er and o'er
With beauty's bloom, and plenty's store ;

 And many a sheaf of yellow corn,
 The farmer's healthful gain.

Up my soft-shaded banks is borne,
 On the huge slow-labouring wain.

And many a yard well stacked with hay,
And many a dairy's trim array,
And many a high-piled barn I see,
And many a dance of rustic glee,

 Where sweats the jocund swain.

And many a town thick-sown with steeples,
With various wealth my border peoples,

 And studs my sweeping line ;

While frequent the bridge of well-hewn stone,
Arch after arch, is proudly thrown,

 My busy banks to join ;

Thus through the plain I wend my fruitful way,
To meet the sounding sea, and swell the briny
 bay.

 The briny bay ! how fair it lies
 Beneath the azure skies !

With its wide sweep of pebbly shore,
And the low far-murmuring roar
Of wave and wavelet sparkling bright
With a thousand points in the dancing light.

There round the promontory's base,
Bluff bulwark of the bay,
Free ranging with a lordly grace,
I wind my surging way,
To mingle with the main. Where wide
This way and that my turbid tide
Is spread, behold in pennoned pride
Strong Neptune's white-winged couriers ride !

From east to west,
Upon my breast,
Rich bales they bear, to swell the stores
Of merchant kings, who on my shores
Pile their proud palaces. Busily plying,
And with fleet wings in fleetness vying,
The fire-fed steam-consuming boat
Casts from its high-reared iron throat,
The many-volumed smoke, while heaves
Beneath the boiling track it leaves
My furrowed flood. Line upon line,
The ships that crossed the fretful brine,
Far-stretching o'er my spacious strand,
A myriad-masted army stand ;
While many a pier, and many a mole,
Breaks my strong current as I roll ;
And block and bolt, and bar and chain,
With giant-gates my flood detain,
To serve the seaman's need. Around,
Thick as a forest, from the ground,

Street upon street, the city rears
Its pride, in strangely-clambering tiers
Of various-fashioned stone, while domes,
And spires, and pinnacles, and towers,
And wealthy tradesmen's terraced bowers
 Nod o'er my troubled bed,
And Labour's many-chambered homes,
 In straggling vastness, spread
There smoking lines. Thus, where I flow,
The stream of being, growing as I grow,
Floods to a tumult, and much-labouring man,
Who, with my small beginnings, small began,
Ends where I end, and crowns his swelling plan.

THE RIVER: AN ALLEGORY OF LIFE

I

Son of the mountain am I,
Born 'twixt the Earth and the Sky,
Where kindly cherished I lay
In my cradle of soft mossy green,
Looking with clear bright eye
On the clouds that curtained the day,
Floating in freakish display
With cerulean glimpses between.
Son of the mountain am I,
Born 'twixt the Earth and the Sky,

Where the old grey rocks stand out
 'Mid the tempest's revel and rout,
 Snorting with jagged old snout
 At the keen winds whistling by ;
 Where the eagle spreads his van,
 And the white-winged ptarmigan—
 Fed by rich dews from the sky
 There an infant of might I did lie.

II

Young was I, and lusty-hearted,
 When first from the mountain I started,
 Down from the Ben's grey shoulders
 Over the old granite boulders,
 Scornful of rest and of ease,
 Eagerly running and leaping,
 Scooping the rocks with my sweeping,
 Tearing the roots of the trees ;
 Swelling with torrent big-breasted,
 Dashing with stream foamy-crested
 Mighty and masterful then :
 Heaving and hurling,
 Whirling and swirling
 O'er the harsh roots of the Ben ;
 Foaming and bubbling,
 Winding and doubling
 Through the long stretch of the glen,
 So lusty was I,
 Son of Earth and of Sky,
 So proud of my potency then !

III

Now I am grown to a River,
With measured and equable strain
Rolling my waters, and never
To toss and to tumble again ;
I am grown to a smooth-flooded River,
The mighty and merciful Giver
Of wealth to the sons of the plain.
Through meadows and terraces pleasant
In triumph of culture I ride,
With the home of the peer and the peasant
To bless the rich roll of my tide ;
The firm-poised bridge I flow under,
The fair-builded city I know,
And spires, domes, and turrets, a wonder,
Nod their pride in my glass as I go ;
And high-tunnelled vessels are steaming
And churning the foam of my tide,
And trafficking thousands are streaming
With quick-eyed despatch at my side.
And millions are praising the River
As he regally rolls to the main,
The mighty and merciful Giver
Of wealth to the sons of the plain.

SPUT DUBH

(A Cascade near Pitlochrie.)

Son of the mountain,
Beautiful and strong,
Roaring and pouring
And sweeping along ;
Mighty art thou,
As I see thee now

Flinging the gathered floods of the Ben
Into the leafy shade of the glen ;

Like to a steed,
With galloping speed,
Tossing his mane,
And whisking his tail,
Art thou, when the pride
Of thy foaming tide
Leaps to the vale,

Son of the mountain !

Most like a god,
Of things that I know,
On the earth below,
Art thou, in the pride
Of thy foaming tide,

Son of the mountain !

Summers and winters,
Inconstant ever,
Roll their changes
Over thy head ;
Rocks tumble down
From the mountain's crown,

And stout old trees,
Root-wrenched by the breeze,
Fall with a crash
Into the dash
Of thy billowy bed ;
But thou dost abide
Unchanged in the swell
Of thy sky-fed well,
Most like in thy pride
To a deathless god,
 Son of the mountain !

Wise was the old Greek man who sang,
‘Water is best.’

As from the breast
Of mighty Cybele,
Nurturing mother,
To every form
Of the breathing nation,
From eagle on wing
To creeping worm,
And man, the king
Of the vasty creation,
Flowed the redundant,
Life-sustaining,
Milky fountain ;
So, when thou pourest
Richly thy waters,
Budding and blowing
Follows thy flowing ;
Earth’s sons and daughters
Rejoice in thy going.
Corn fields are waving

Near to thy laving,
Gardens are growing
With flower and with tree,
And proud cities rise
With towers to the skies,
Watered by thee,
Son of the mountain !

Son of the mountain,
Lovely art thou,
Where thou leapest as now,
Silvery bright,
From the mountain's brow,
With the unspotted breadth of the blue above thee,
And the circling grace of the trees that love thee,
Spiring larch, and the tresses fine
Of waving birch,
And the red boled strength of the dark green
pine,
Rejoicing with thee in the fair sunshine,
Son of the mountain.
No fools were they who worshipped thee
So fair and bright, and wild and free,
So beautiful, so strong.
They sought a god that they could see,
River god or nymph of fountain,
And poured their untaught litany
Responsive to thy bickering glee,
Son of the mountain !

Son of the mountain,
Most like to a god

Art thou in the freedom and force of thy flow ;
 A God must be in thee, or near thee, I know ;
 And Him I adore
 In this shrine of the glen,
 Mid the rush and the roar
 Where thy bright floods leap
 With silvery sweep,
 Down from the crown of the old granite Ben,
 Strong son of the mountain !

WAIL OF AN IDOL

Μὴ δὴ μοι θάνατόν γε παραύδα, φαίδιμ' Ὁδυσσεῖν'
 Βουλούμην κ' ἐπάρουρος ἐών θητευέμεν ἀλλω,
 'Ανδρὶ παρ' ἀκλήρω, φέ μὴ βίοτος παλὺς εἴη,
 'Η πᾶσιν νεκύεσσι καταφθιμένοισι ἀνάσσειν.—HOMER.

O DREARY, dreary shades !
 O sad and sunless glades !
 O yellow, yellow meads
 Of asphodel !
 Where the dream-like idol strays,
 On lone and lifeless ways,
 Through Hades' weary maze,
 And sings his own sad knell.

 O sullen, solemn, silent clime !
 O lazy pace of noiseless time !
 O where is the blythe and gamesome change
 Of the many-nurturing earth ?
 The dance of joy, the flush of mirth,
 Life's vast and varied range ?

O dreary, dreary vales !
O heavy, heavy gales !
Fraught with the dreamy dew of sleep,
Over the joyless fields ye sweep ;
O sullen, sullen, streaky sky,
Where the changeless moon, with a leaden eye,
Aloft hangs languidly,
And yellow vapours mount up high,
And flickering lights in a wild dance fly,
Like the last fleet flash when the strangled die,
Shooting across the darkling eye.

O sullen, sullen sky !
Where the brown bat wings,
And the lone bird sings .
A chant like the chant of death ;
While sad souls wake
The stagnant lake
With a sobbing, struggling breath.
O sad, O sad is the wail of the stream,
Mingling its sighs with the dead man's dream ;
Winding, winding nine times round,
Weary, wandering, 'scapeless bound !
And the black, black kine,
In lazy ranks,
Are cropping the sickly herb
From the reedy Stygian banks ;
And hissing things,
With poisoned blood,
Are crawling through the bubbling mud.
O sad, O sad is the endless row

Of poplars black ; oh, sad and slow
Is the long-drawn train of the sons of woe,
The silent-marching ghosts !

And they share no more in the feast of glee,
And the dance, and the song, and the wine-cup
free ;

Where the bard divine, with mellow lays,
Is singing the gods' and the heroes' praise ;
And they share no more
Loud laughter's roar,
The silent-marching ghosts !

I hear their cry,
As they flit swift by
On noiseless wing,
Hurrying through the wide outspread
Gates that gape for the countless dead :
I hear the cry
Of the wailing ghosts ;
Their voices small,
Like a drowning thing,
Drawn echoless along the long dim hall ;
And some are whirled,
In the mighty void,
Like a leaf in the gurgling tide
And some are hurled,
With a gusty fit,
Into the deep Tartarean pit ;
And some do sway,
Like a blind thing stray,
To and fro in the pathless air ;
And some, whom chance less stormy rules,
Sit sipping the blood from crimson pools.

THE SELECTED POEMS OF

O sad is the throne,
Dark, drear, alone,
Of the stern, relentless pair !
With gloom enveiled,
In judgment mailed,
A joyless sway they bear.
No circling years,
No sounding spheres,
No hopes and fears,
Are there ;
They sit on the throne,
Dark, drear, alone,
A stern relentless pair.
And beside them sits
A monster dire,
Watching the darkness with eyes of
fire,
The dog of the triform head ;
And his harsh bark splits,
Like thunder fits,
The realm of the silent dead.
Oh, sad is the throne,
Dark, drear, alone,
Of the stern, relentless pair !
O dreary, dreary shades !
O sad and sunless glades !
O yellow, yellow meads
Of asphodel !
O loveless, joyless homes !
O weary, starless domes !
Where the wind-swept idol roams,
And sighs his own sad knell.

O sullen, solemn, silent clime !

O lazy pace of noiseless time !

O where are the many-coloured joys of earth ?

O where is the loud strong voice of mirth ?

 The jubilant shout,

 Of the light-heeled rout,

Where the dance is whirling about and about ;

 The roving joy

 Of the bright-faced boy,

When he plays with life as he plays with a toy.

O where is the change

 Of joy and woe ?

 The love of friend,

 The hate of foe ?

O where is the bustle of many-winged life,

And of man with man the many-mingling strife ?

 Where to live was to fight,

 And to fight was delight,

Where the fair face smiled on the strong-armed knight.

O Hermes ! leader of the dead,

 Thou wingèd god

 Of the golden rod,

 O lead me, lead me further still !

Lead me to Lethe's silent stream,

 That I may drink, deep drink my fill,

And wash from my soul this long life-dream !

 O lead me, lead me to Lethe's shore,

 Where Memory lives no more !

SONG OF BEN CRUACHAN

(Argyleshire)

BEN CRUACHAN is king of the mountains,
That gird in the lovely Loch Awe,
Loch Etive is fed from his fountains,
By the stream of the dark-rushing Awe.
With his peak so high,
He cleaves the sky,
That smiles on his old grey crown,
While the mantle green,
On his shoulders seen,
In many a fold flows down.

He looks to the North, and he renders
A greeting to Nevis Ben, •
And Nevis, in white snowy splendours,
Gives Cruachan greeting again.
O'er dread Glencoe
The greeting doth go,
And where Etive winds fair in the glen ;
And he hears the call,
In his steep North wall,
'God bless thee, old Cruachan Ben !'

When the North winds their forces muster,
And Ruin rides high on the storm,
All calm, in the midst of their bluster,
He stands, with his forehead enorm.
When block on block,
With thundering shock,
Comes hurtled confusedly down,

No whit recks he,
But laughs to shake free
The dust, from his old grey crown.

And while torrents on torrents are pouring
In a tempest of truculent glee,
When louder the loud Awe is roaring,
And the soft lake rides like a sea ;
He smiles through the storm,
And his heart grows warm,
As he thinks how his streams feed the plains ;
And the brave old Ben
Grows young again,
And swells with enforcèd veins.

For Cruachan is king of the mountains,
That gird in the lovely Loch Awe,
Loch Etive is fed from his fountains,
By the stream of the dark-rushing Awe.
Ere Adam was made,
He reared his head
Sublime o'er the green-winding glen ;
And, when flame wraps the sphere,
O'er Earth's ashes shall peer
The peak of the old Granite Ben !

THE OLD MAN OF HOY

(Orkney)

THE old man of Hoy
Looks out on the sea,
Where the tide runs strong, and the wave rides free :
He looks on the broad Atlantic sea,
And the old man of Hoy
Hath this great joy,
To hear the deep roar of the wide blue ocean,
And to stand unmoved 'mid the sleepless motion,
And to feel o'er his head
The white foam spread
From the wild wave proudly swelling,
And to care no whit
For the storm's rude fit
Where he stands on his old rock-dwelling,
This rare old man of Hoy.

The old man of Hoy
Looks out on the sea,
Where the tide runs strong and the wave rides free :
He looks on the broad Atlantic sea,
And the old man of Hoy
Hath this great joy,
To look on the flight of the wild sea-mew,
With their hoar nests hung o'er the waters blue ;
To see them swing
On plunging wing,
And to hear their shrill notes swelling,

And with them to reply
 To the storm's war cry,
 As he stands on his old rock-dwelling ;
 This rare old man of Hoy.

The old man of Hoy
 Looks out on the sea,
 Where the tide runs strong, and the wave rides free :
 He looks on the broad Atlantic sea,
 And the old man of Hoy
 Hath this great joy,
 When the sea is white and the sky is black,
 And the helmless ship drives on like wrack,
 To see it dash
 At his feet with a crash,
 And the sailors' death-note knelling,
 And to hear their shrieks
 With pitiless cheeks,
 This stern old man of Hoy.

The old man of Hoy
 Looks out on the sea,
 Where the tide runs strong, and the wave rides free :
 He looks on the broad Atlantic sea,
 And the old man of Hoy
 Hath this great joy,
 To think on the pride of the sea-kings old,
 Harolds, and Ronalds, and Sigurds bold,
 Whose might was felt,
 By the cowering Celt,
 When he heard their war-cry yelling ;

But the sea-kings are gone,
 And he stands alone,
Firm on his old rock-dwelling,
 This stout old man of Hoy.

The old man of Hoy
 Looks out on the sea,
Where the tide runs strong, and the wave rides free :
 He looks on the broad Atlantic sea,
 And the old man of Hoy
 Hath this great joy,
To think on the gods that were mighty of yore,
Braga, and Baldur, and Odin, and Thor,
 And giants of power
 In fateful hour,
'Gainst the great gods rebelling :
 But the gods are all dead,
 And he rears his head
Alone from his old rock-dwelling,
 This stiff old man of Hoy.

But listen to me,
 Old man of the sea,
List to the Skulda that speaketh by me ;
The Nornies are weaving a web for thee,
 Thou old man of Hoy,
 To ruin thy joy,
And to make thee shrink from the lash of the ocean,
And teach thee to quake with a strange commotion,
 When over thy head
 And under thy bed
The rampant wave is swelling,

And thou shalt die
 'Neath a pitiless sky,
 And reel from thine old rock-dwelling,
 Thou stout old man of Hoy !

A SONG OF BEN LEDI

(Perthshire)

COME, sit on Ledi's old grey peak,
 And sing a song with me,
 Where the wild bird whirrs o'er the mosses bleak,
 And the wild wind whistles free !
 'Tis sweet to lie on the tufted down,
 Low, low in the gowany glen ;
 But proud is the foot that stands on the crown
 Of the glorious Ledi Ben.

Come hither, ye tows-men, soot-besoiled,
 Who cower in dingy nooks,
 On whom no ray of the sun hath smiled,
 To shame your sombre looks.
 Come, closely mewed in steaming lanes,
 Whom musty chambers pen,
 And look abroad on the world of God
 From the top of this glorious Ben !

Come ye who sit with moody pains,
 And curious-peering looks,
 Clogging the veins of your laden brains
 With the dust of your maundering books.

Not in your own dim groping souls,
Nor in words of babbling men,
But here His wonders God unrolls—
On the peak of the Ledi Ben.

Look forth on these far-stretching rows
Of huge-ridged mountains high ;
There God His living Epos shows
Of powers that never die.
Far north, far west, each glowing crest
Thy sateless view may ken,
Where proudly they stand to rampart the land,
With this glorious Ledi Ben.

And lo ! where eastward, far beneath,
The broad and leafy plain
Spreads on the banks of silvery Teith
Stout labour's fair domain ;
The smoke from the long white-glancing town,
The loch that gleams in the glen,
All rush to thine eye when castled high
On this glorious Ledi Ben.

Come, sit with me, ye sons of the free,
Join hearty hand to hand,
And claim your part in the iron heart
Of the Grampian-girded land ;
Soft lands of the South on rosy beds
May cradle smoother men.
But the Northern knows his strength when he treads
The heath of the old grey Ben.

Come, sit with me and praise with glee,
 On the peak of this granite Ben.
 The brave old land, where the stream leaps free
 Down the rifts of the sounding glen.
 Land of strong hands and glowing hearts,
 And mother of stalwart men,
 Who nurse free thoughts where the wild breeze floats
 On the peak of the Ledi Ben.

TO THE DIVINE SPIRIT

SPIRIT that shaped the formless chaos,
 Breath that stirred the sluggish deep,
 When the primal crude creation
 Started from its dateless sleep ;
 Spirit that heaved the granite mountains
 From the central fiery wells,
 Breath that drew the rolling rivers
 From the welkin's dewy cells,
 Spirit of motion,
 Earth and ocean
 Moulding into various life,
 Within, without us,
 And round about us
 Weaving all in friendly strife :
 Come, O come, thou heavenly guest,
 Shape a new world within my breast !

Spirit that taught the holy fathers
 Wandering through the desert drear,
 To know and feel, through myriad marchings,
 One eternal presence near.

Breath that touched the Hebrew prophets'
 Lips with words of wingèd fire,
 Through the dubious gloom of ages,
 Kindling hope and high desire ;
 Spirit revealing
 To pure feeling,
 In the inward parts of man,
 Fitful-shining
 Dim-divining
 Vast foreshadowings of Thy plan ;
 Come, O come, thou prophet guest,
 Watch and wait within my breast !

Spirit, that o'er Thine own Messiah
 Hovered like a brooding dove,
 When Earth's haughty lords he conquered,
 By the peaceful march of love.
 Breath that hushed loud-vaunting Cæsars,
 And in triumph yoked to Thee
 Iron Rome, and savage Scythia,
 Bonded brethren and the free.
 Spirit of union,
 And communion
 Of devoted heart with heart,
 Pure and holy,
 Sure and slowly
 Working out thy boastless part :
 Come, thou calmly-conquering guest,
 Rule and reign within my breast !

Spirit that, when free-thoughted Europe
 With the triple-crowned despot strove,

In the gusty Saxon's spirit
 Thy soul-stirring music wove ;
 Then when pride's piled architecture
 At a poor monk's truthful word
 Crashing fell, and thrones were shaken
 At the whisper of the Lord.
 Spirit deep-lurking,
 Secret-working
 Weaver of strange circumstance,
 All whose doing
 Is rise or ruin
 Named by shallow mortals chance ;
 Come, let fruitful deeds attest
 Thy plastic virtue, in my breast !

Spirit, that sway'st the will of mortals,
 Every wish, and every hope,
 Shaping to Thy forethought purpose
 All their striving, all their scope.
 Central tide that heaviest onward
 Wave and wavelet, surge and spray,
 Making wrath of man to praise Thee,
 And his pride to pave Thy way :
 Spirit that workest,
 Where thou lurkest,
 Death from life, and day from night,
 Peace from warring,
 And from jarring,
 Songs of triumph and delight ;
 Come, O come, Thou heavenly guest,
 Work all Thy will within my breast !

NIGHT

'Ιερὰ Νύξ.—HOMER

HOLY NIGHT ! in silence
From thy starry throne
Swaying, thee I worship,
Silent and alone.

Holy Night ! how calmly
Sails the mellow moon
Through the deep blue welkin,
Fairer than the noon.

Mellow Moon ! how gently
Through the voiceless night,
O'er the sleeping waters,
Streams thy silver light.

Holy Night ! how lovely
Shoot, with sudden birth,
Hosts of shimmering arrows
From the lambent north.

Holy Night ! thou reignest
Solemn, still, serene ;
Hushed the tribes of mortals
Bow before their queen.

Now the battling voices
Of the babbling throng
Cease ; and thou may'st listen,
As it treads along,

To the steps of Godhead
 Beating march of Time,
 Slowly, surely, wisely,
 Beautiful, sublime ;

Beating thought and feeling,
 Beating vital power
 In renewed creation's
 Pulse, from hour to hour.

Holy Night ! devoutly
 While I worship thee,
 Babbling Folly's echo
 Dies away from me.

A SABBATH MEDITATION

THE Sabbath bells are travelling o'er the hill ;
 The gentle breeze across the fresh-reaped fields
 Blows fitful ; scarcely, on the broad smooth bay,
 With full white-gleaming sail, the slow ship moves ;
 Thin float the clouds ; serene the mountain stands ;
 And all the plain in hallowed beauty lies.
 God of the Sabbath, on Thy holy day
 'Tis meet to praise Thee ! In the high-domed fane,
 Glorious with all the legendary pomp
 Of pictured saints, where skilful singers swell
 The curious chant, or on the lonely hill,
 Where, on great cliff and purple heather, shines
 The shadowless sun at noon, Thou hear'st alike.
 Vainly the narrow wit of narrow men

Within the walls which priestly lips have blest,
In the fixed phrases of a formal creed,
Would crib thy presence ; Thou art more than all
The shrines that hold Thee ; and our wisest creeds
Are but the lispings of a prattling child,
To spell the Infinite. Kings have drawn the sword,
Lawyers have wrangled, to declare Thy being ;
And convocations of high-mitred men
The foaming vials of sacerdotal wrath
Outpoured, and, with tempestuous proud conceit,
Shook the vast world about a phrase to name Thee,
In vain. Thou, like the thin impassive air,
Dost cheat the grasp of subtlest-thoughted sage ;
And half our high theology is but
The shadow, which man's poor and clouded ken
Hath cast across Thy brightness.* I would sing
Thy praise with humble heart, and, like the lyre
Wind-swept, the coming of thy breath would wait,
To wake my rapture. Lift up your heads, ye hills,
And nod His praise, ye sharp far-stretching lines
Of crags storm-shattered, and ye jagged peaks
Sky-cleaving ! you His mighty power upshot
From the red ocean of His nethermost fire,
In primal ages : there inform ye lay,
In seething lakes, your molten masses huge,
In turbid waves, with inorganic roll,
Far-heaving through the dark abysmal space
Chaotic ; thence His word creative hove
Your marshalled ridges ; rank on rank ye rose,
Granite and gneiss, and every ordered kind
That careful science counts ; the giant frame
Of this fair world, of peace-enfolden vales

Storm-fronting fence, and bulwark ever sure.
Ye mountain torrents, with far-sweeping foam,
Ye leaping cataracts, and deep-swirling pools,
Ye streams with the full-gathered grandeur rolling
Of countless rills, from huge far-sundered Alps,
Ye waters, with your thousand voices, praise
The mighty Lord ! He of your sleepless floods
Is the unsleeping soul. All motion comes
From Him. Thou Ocean, with thy living belt
Girdling the Earth, whether serene, as now,
Thou liest, licking with an innocent ripple
The feet o' the green-throned isles, or, like a spurred
And furious charger, wild from coast to coast
Drivest far-sounding—thou, in all thy changes,
Art full of God ; yea, all thy works, O Lord,
Are full of Thee ! and who is dull to these
Shall from the teaching of the schools come back
With beggarly blindness. He shall mount in vain
His telescope, to spy Thee in the clouds,
Who in green herb and starry flower, beneath
His vagrant foot, hath failed to see and love
Thy manifest beauty. O make clear my sense,
Thou great Revealer, to the grand array
Of open mysteries that encompass round
Our daily walk with Godhead, that no vain
And wordy fool may cheat my facile ear
With echoed volleys of man's crude conceit,
Misnamed God's thunder ! From Thyself direct
Thy secret comes to all, whom Thou shalt deem
Worthy to find it. Councils, doctors, priests,
Are but the signs that point us to the spring
Whence flow thy living waters ; and, alas !

Too oft with wavering, or with cowardly hand
Back-turned, they point. Teach Thou my 'stablished
soul
To seek Thy teaching, Lord, and trust in Thee.

The generations of uncounted men
Have hymned Thy praises, Lord. Their stammering
tongues

With strange crude doctrine magnify the power
Of Him, whose vastness they were fain to grasp,
But could not. Even the folly of the fool
Shall praise Thee, Lord. Thou hast a place for all.
The wicked and the weak are but the steps,
Whereon the wise shall mount, to see Thy face ;
And mighty churches, and high-vaunted faiths,
Are but the schools, wherein Thy centuries train
The infant peoples to the manly reach
Of pure devotion ; and most wise are they,
Who hear one hymn of varied truth through all
The harmonious discord of strange witnesses,
Prophets and martyrs, priests, and meek-eyed saints,
And rapt diviners, with imperfect tongue,
Babbling Thy praises. Egypt's brutish gods,
Dog-faced, hawk-headed, crocodile, and cat,
Snake-eating ibis, and 'the spotted bull,
Not without apt significance did type
Thy severed functions to a sense-bound race.
In sea and sky, green tree, and flowing stream,
In flying bird, and creeping beast, they found
Pictorial speech, and speaking signs of what
They crudely guessed of Thee. To clearer Greeks
Stout Briareus, celestial Titans strong,

And supreme Jove, with weight of thunderous locks,
Throned like a king, and sceptre in his hand,
And ministrant eagle, spake Thy mighty power
With awful grace. Each seized a part of Thee,
And, with a fond assurance, deemed to hold
Thy whole infinity in earthly bonds
For human needs. Nor less the Christian priest
Portentous erred, when with rash hand he clutched
The awful Triune symbol, and defined
The immeasurable Majesty Supreme
With curious phrase and scientific rule,
And with the thorns of wiry logic fenced
Thy bristling name, from touch of thought profane ;
Then, from a throne high-seated, and girt round
With triple-tiered presumption, grasped Thy bolt,
Sported Thy thunder, and with Thy best friends
Filled a far-dreaded Hell, that he might seem
A god on earth, whom awe-struck, grovelling men
Might see, and feel, and handle. The pale monk,
Wasting his flesh within a cold damp cell,
And straining his dull vision, till he saw
God's features, in the dim putrescent light
Of his own sick imaginings—this man caught
A glimpse of Thee, and, with such fiery haste
Did hold Thee, and with prostrate worship hug,
That nevermore his head he dared to lift
Erect, and with proud-sweeping glance survey
The riches of Thy wide luxuriant world,
Man's privilege. On so nice a pivot turns
True wisdom ; here an inch, or there, we swerve
From the just balance ; by too much we sin,
And half our errors are but truths unpruned.

The errors of Thy creatures praise Thee, Lord.
Not they who err are damned ; but who, being
wrong,
In obdurate persistency to err
Refuse all bettering. Hope for such is none.
Hope lives for all, who flounder boldly on
Through quaggy bogs, till firmer footing found
Gives glorious prospect. One Deceiver haunts
The hearts of faithless men ; his name is FEAR.
O Thou, who ridest glorious through the skies,
In thunder or in sunshine strong the same,
The Almighty builder of this fair machine,
Whose beauty blinds star-eyed philosophy,
Whose vastness makes our staggered thinking pant
For utterance vainly—Father of all Power,
Eternal Fount of liberty and life,
Free, measureless, unspent—if e'er my voice
Rose to Thy throne, in reverent truthful prayer,
Slay me this demon, yellow Fear, that maims
The arm of enterprise, nips the bud of hope,
And freezes the great ocean of our life,
That should run riot in the praise of Thee,
With wave on wave of proud high-venturing deeds.
O may this Sabbath, with its gentle dews
Shed by Thy Spirit on my chastened soul,
Restore my blighted bud of thought, and lift
This low-crushed life into a mighty tree,
Branchy, and blooming with fair summer fruits
Exuberant-clustered !—May all Sabbaths be
A ripe and mellow season to my heart,
Lovely as golden autumn's purple eve,
Genial as sleep, whence the tired limb refreshed

Leaps to new action, and appointed toil,
With steady hope, sure faith, and sober joy.

THE SEA

WHAT dost thou say,
Thou old grey sea,
Thou broad briny water
To me ?
With thy ripple and thy splash,
And thy waves as they lash
The old grey rocks on the shore ?
With thy tempests as they roar,
And thy crested billows hoar,
And thy tide evermore,
 Fresh and free ;
With thy floods as they come,
And thy voice never dumb,
What thought art thou speaking to me ?
What thing should I say
 On this bright summer day,
Thou strange human dreamer, to thee ?
One wonder the same
All things do proclaim
In the sky, and the land, and the sea ;
 'Tis the unsleeping force
Of a God in his course,
Whose life is the law of the whole,
 As he breathes out his power
In the pulse of the hour,
And the march of the years as they roll ;

You may measure his ways
In the weeks and the days,
And the stars as they wheel round the pole,
But no finger is thine
To touch the divine
All-plastic, all-permeant soul,
As it shapes and it moulds,
And its virtue unfolds,
In the garden of things as they grow,
And flings forth the tide
Of its strength far and wide,
In wonders above and below.

Thou huge-heaving sea
That art speaking to me
Of the power and the pride of a God,
I would travel like thee
With force fresh and free
Through the breadth of my human abode,
Never languid and low,
But with bountiful flow,
Of thoughts that are kindred to God ;
Ever surging and streaming,
Ever beaming and gleaming,
Like the lights as they shift on thy glass,
Ever swelling and heaving,
And largely receiving
The beauty of things as they pass.

Thou broad-billowed sea
Never sundered from thee
May I wander the welkin below ;

May theplash and the roar
Of thy waves on the shore
Beat the march to my feet as they go ;
Ever strong, ever free,
When the breath of the sea
Like the fan of an angel I know ;
Ever rising with power,
To the call of the hour,
Like the swell of thy tides as they flow.

THE BOULDER

THOU huge grey stone upon the heath,
With lichens crusted well,
I marvel much, if thou found breath,
What story thou wouldst tell.
Oft wandering o'er the birch-grown hill,
To hear the wild winds moan,
I wonder still what chance or skill
Hath pitched thee here alone.

Where wert thou when Sire Adam first
Drew his mischanceful breath,
And in the bowers of bliss was cursed
With everlasting death,
Then when the damned fiend, who loves
The mask of snake and toad,
Crept into Paradisian groves,
And stole Eve's heart from God ?

Thee in some seaward glen, I ween,
On sharp Loffodin's shore,
In frozen folds of gleaming green
The giant glacier bore,
Then down the steep it harshly slid,
Till, loosen'd from the high land,
With wrench enorm its compact form
Was launch'd, a floating island,

Into the Artic deep. And thou,
In its stark bosom buried,
Through seas which huge Leviathians plough,
To this South strand wert hurried.
Then, from its cold close gripe unbound
By summer's permeant breath,
Thy wandering bulk a station found
On this wide sandy heath.

And here thy watch hath been, God knows
How long, and what a strange
Masque of Time's motley-shifting shows
Hath known thee without change.
Seas thou hast seen to dry land turned,
And dry land turned to seas,
And fiery cones that wildly burned,
Where flocks now feed at ease.

By thee the huge-limbed breathing things,
Crude Earth's portentous race,
Passed, and long lizard-shapes with wings
Swept o'er thy weathered face.

To thee first came man's jaded limb
From Eastern Babel far ;
Around thee rose the Druid's hymn,
And the cry of Celtic war.

By thee the Roman soldier made
The mountain-cleaving road,
The Saxon boor beside thee strayed,
The lordly Norman strode.
The Papal monk thy measure took ;
The proud priest triple-crowned
Mumbled a blessing from his book,
And claimed the holy ground.

By thee the insolent Edward passed,
When mad with eager greed,
A bridge of law-spun lies he cast
Across the Scottish Tweed.
And thou that vengeful day didst know,
When strong with righteous scorn
Young Freedom rose, and smote the foe,
At glorious Bannockburn.

Thou saw'st when 'neath thy hoary shade
Upon the old brown sod
The plaided preacher sate, and made
His fervent prayer to God,
What time men tried by courtly art
To trim, and craft of kings,
The faith that soars from a people's heart
And flaps untutored wings.

'Thou saw'st, from out old unkempt bowers,
 Huge peopled cities rise,
And merchant kings with stately towers
 Inade the troubled skies.
Thick rose the giant vents, that mar
 Heaven's lustrous blue domain,
And whirling wheel and hissing car
 Disturb thy silent reign.

And thou—but what thou yet may'st see
 The pious Muse withholds ;
The curious art be far from me,
 To unroll Time's fateful folds.
When Earth, that wheels on viewless wing,
 Is twenty centuries older,
Some bard, where Scotland was, shall sing
 The story of the Boulder.

MY SCOTCH LASSIE

If I had the brush of angel,
 Dipt in colours rich and rare,
I would paint with choicest limning
 My Scotch lassie fresh and fair.

Fresh is she as dewy morning,
 Fair as blossom on the spray,
Fragrant as the birch tree waving
 In the fresh breeze of the May.

O my bright and blooming lassie !
Maids more stately well may be ;
But no stateliest maiden ever
Breathed a smile so sweet as she.

O my bonnie blithe-faced lassie,
Mild as bloom on hawthorn tree,
Rich as June, and ripe as Autumn,
Flower and fruit in one is she.

Saw you ever cowslip warmer
When the zephyrs came to woo ?
Saw you bright-eyed speedwell peeping
'Neath the hedge with purer blue ?

Warmer than her keen pulse keeping
Time to all things true and good,
Bluer than her blue eye swelling
In young love's divinest mood ?

Softer floats no plumy sea-gull
Than her bosom's heaving charms,
Swan on lake not whiter swimmeth
Than the whiteness of her arms.

If I had the brush of angel,
Dipt in colours rich and rare—
No ! no trick of brush or pigment
Ever limned a form so fair.

Let them limn who live in dreamland,
Where the brain-born phantoms sway ;

I have feasted on the substance,
And the shadow pales away.

I will not make dainty mockery
With a painted thin display
Of a life that breathes and burgeons
With the fulness of the May.

I will see my dear Scotch lassie
In the ray that sweeps the hills,
In the bright far-shimmering ocean,
In the silver-flashing rills.

I will see her where the wandering
Bee sucks honey from the brae,
Where the mavis to the mavis
Pours his rich full-throated lay.

I will feed upon the sweetness
Of her presence near to me,
And her wealth of grace that hangeth
Like a peach upon a tree.

I will live on the dear memory
Of that hour of burning bliss,
When she lent her lips and thrilled me
With the rapture of her kiss !

STUDENTS' MAY-SONG

BLITHE birds are singing now,
Light clouds are winging now,
Easter bells ringing now

Anthems of glee !

Come from your dusty nooks,
Fling away musty books,
Hear how the lusty rooks

Caw merrily !

List to the happy note,
Trolled from the mavis' throat,
Where breezy zephyrs float,

Cradling the trees !

Broad seas are glancing,
Bright waves are dancing,
Light skiffs advancing

With undulant ease !

All things are buoyant and bright with the May,
All things rejoice in the fresh-streaming ray ;

Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

Wilt thou be lagging now,
Fretting and fagging now,
Moping and groping,
With down-drooping head ?

Over the yellow leaf,
Wasting thy summers brief,
Building and gilding
The bones of the dead !

Digging from mouldy graves,
 Old Greek and Roman knaves,
 Scratching and patching
 Their mummies to life ;
 Muddily diving,
 Thornily striving,
 Idly reviving
 Some foolish old strife,
 Deaf to the charm of the lusty-voiced May,
 Deaf to the call of sweet birds from the spray ;
 Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

Wilt thou be dreaming still,
 Restlessly teeming still
 With bubbles and troubles
 That rise from the brain ?
 Guessing and gaping,
 Theories shaping,
 Wondering, blundering,
 Ever in vain ?
 With thoughts never steady,
 With words ever ready,
 Spouting and routing,
 And troubling the pool ;
 Rushing in boldly,
 Cutting up coldly,
 Weighing, surveying,
 All things by a rule !
 Burrowing blindly far from the day,
 Deaf to the sweet birds that call from the spray ;
 Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

Come where the mountain high
Cleaveth the mottled sky,
Where white clouds lightly fly
 Dappling the noon !
Where the lone mountain tarn,
Fringed by the plumpy fern,
 Shimmers and glimmers
 Beneath the pale moon ;
Where the green birchen spray
Waves o'er the cliffy way,
 Fragrantly, vagrantly,
 Skirting the Ben ;
And the flood roaring free,
Bubbling with foamy glee,
 Gushes and rushes
 And leaps to the glen !

Where winter's cold cerements are bursting away,
And Zephyrs are piping the birth hymn of May,
 Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

Where the wide leafy bower,
Sprouting with snowy flower,
Richly with drooping power,
 Nods o'er the lea ;
And the brook slowly wandering,
Broadly meandering,
 Lispingly, crisply,
 Creeps to the sea !
Where crown, bell, and starlet,
White, purple, and scarlet,
 Loosely, profusely,
 Spread over the mead ;

Where the white lambs are playing
And reeling and swaying,
The bee goes a-Maying
With light buzzing speed ;

Where Nature is vested in light from the May,
And all things with vegetive splendour are gay,
Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

Come where broad seas of light,
Flooding with noiseless might,
Sweep with new glory bright
O'er earth and sky !

Wilt thou be lurking then,
Owlishly far from men,
Dark in this musty den,
Blinding thine eye ?

Not from dry learning's mine,
Not from dead printed line,
Gushes the lore divine
Living to thee ;

Shake rusty bonds away,
Leap into open day,
Wander in face of May,
Bravely with me ;

Things that were dead shall be quickened to-day,
Touched with new transport of life from the May,
Come away ! Come away ! Come away !

ADVICE TO A FAVOURITE STUDENT ON LEAVING COLLEGE

DEAR youth, grey books no blossoms bear ;
Thou hast enough of learning ;
For life's green fields thy march prepare,
And take my friendly warning.
I would not have thee longer stay,
To read of other's striving ;
Wield thine own arm !—the only way
To know life is by living.

The brain's a small part of a man ;
Though thought has wide dominions,
Thou canst not lift the smallest stone
By Speculation's pinions.
Who learns an art by lifeless rule,
Through mists will still be blinking ;
The subtlest thinker is a fool,
Who spins mere webs of thinking.

The times are feverish ; mark me well !
Have faith and patience by thee ;
Unless thou curl into thy shell,
Thou'l find enough to try thee.
But that's a weak device. I know
Thou'l face it free and fearless ;
But O ! beware the greater foe,
A spirit proud and prayerless !

I love a bold and venturous boy,
Who, full of fresh emotion,
Launches with large and liberal joy
On life's wide-rolling ocean.
But there are rocks ; and blind to steer
Were thoughtless folly's merit :
Curb thou thy force with holy fear,
And keep a watchful spirit.

Where eager crowds contend for pelf,
The seller and the buyer,
Each one free range seeks for himself,
And cares for nothing higher.
Make honey in an ordered hive,
Nor join the lawless scramble
Of men, with whom in life to thrive
Is with good luck to gamble.

We live in days when all would climb
With hot, high-strung employment ;
Some rage in prose, some writhe in rhyme,
All hate a calm enjoyment.
Freedom's the watchword of the hour ;
But O ! tis melancholy
When every bubbling brain has power
To drown calm thought with folly !

The age is full of talkers. Thou
Be silent for a season,
Till slowly-ripening facts shall grow
Into a stable reason.

Pert witlings fling crude fancies round,
As wanton whim conceits them,
Pleased when from fools the echoed sound
Of their own folly greets them.

Nurse thou, where eager babble spreads,
A quiet brooding nature,
Nor strive, by lopping taller heads,
To raise thy lesser stature.
Eschew the cavilling critic's art,
The lust of loud reproving ;
The brain by knowledge grows, the heart
Is larger made by loving.

All things we cannot know. At sea
As when a good ship saileth,
Our steps within the planks are free,
Beyond all cunning faileth.
So man as by a living bond
Of circling powers is bounded ;
Within the line is ours, beyond
The sharpest wit's confounded.

What thing thou knowest, nicely know
With curious fine dissection ;
The smallest mite can something show
That chains thy rapt inspection.
Allwhere with holy caution move,
In God thy life is moving ;
All things with reverent patience prove,
'Tis God's will thou art proving.

What thing thou doest, bravely do ;
 When Heaven's clear call hath found thee,
 Follow !—with fervid wheels pursue,
 Though thousands bray around thee !
 Yet keep thy zeal in rein ; depise
 No gentle preparation ;
 Flash not God's truth on blinking eyes,
 With reckless inspiration !

Farewell, my brave, my bright-eyed boy !
 And from the halls of learning,
 Thy face, my long familiar joy,
 Take, with this friendly warning.
 And when with weighty truth thou'rt fraught
 From life, the earnest preacher,
 Think sometimes with a kindly thought
 On me, thy faithful teacher.

VACATION ODE

(Read at the end of the Winter Session of the
 Greek Classes, Edinburgh.)

Ye sons of learned toil,
 Who with hard purpose moil
 O'er grammar's thorny ways, and heaps of dusty
 tomes,
 Your posts are run. Be free,
 And with unchartered glee
 Sport where the springy foot o'er lush green meadow
 roams

Not from the gaunt array
Of mouldy parchments grey,
Drops the fine dew that slakes the knowledge-thirst-
ing soul !
But where from blade and spray
Glances the fresh green May,
And rose-tilt flowerets blow, and lucid waters roll.

Rise, and no more be vexed
From harsh disjointed text,
With learned strain to wrench the dubious-worded
lore !
Up ! and redeem your sight
With Heaven's broad-streaming light,
And pictured skies, and plains with beauty dappled
o'er !
And let the genial note
That through green woods doth float
From viewless cuckoo, win your rapt ear's wise regard,
More than the cunning chime
Of curious-bulded rhyme
From craft of smooth-lipped Greek, or deep-mouthed
Roman bard.

Let roar of foaming floods,
And breath of growing woods,
Wave round you with more joy than flags of conquer-
ing kings !
Nor let your dull thought go
With painful pace and slow,
When every bursting grove with twittering gladness
rings !

Not wise who stern refuse
 With gracious hand to use
 The chance-sown sport, stray whim, and random-
 started joy ;
 In many a shifting mood,
 With gamesome lustihood,
 Quaint Nature respite finds from life's severe employ.

You to familiar halls
 A father's voice recalls,
 And tells your virtues' roll with broad benignant pride ;
 While eager at the gate
 A mother's love doth wait
 To gain her laurelled boy back to her careful side.

And troops of sisters fair,
 Whose smiles make blithe the air,
 And rings of lusty boys, with merry sun-brown faces,
 These wait your skill to guide
 Their steps by mountain side,
 To lone green glens remote, and strange old castled
 places !

Now home ! You need no goad
 From me on such a road ;
 Your native steam will urge this taskless travel duly ;
 And may God love you so,
 Your strength through weal and woe,
 As I did love you well, and strove to serve you truly !

A SONG FOR THE ROAD, AND A RULE
FOR THE LIFE

A song for the road, and a rule for the life,
Receive from a lusty old man, Tom ;
Fear God, and march on, and make war to the knife,
When the enemy crosses your plan, Tom.
For Life's a campaign ; then foot it apace,
There are dangers enough in your track, Tom ;
Still keep a sharp out-look, and show a bold face,
Or the foe will be soon on your back, Tom !
For this is true wisdom, I wish you to know,
Sail close to the wind when you tack, Tom !
We live, while we live, by the pluck that we show,
And if we don't stand, we must flee from the foe
And fall with a stab in the back, Tom !

You see yon huge Ben that runs up to the sky,
So ruggedly grand and sublime, Tom ;
A staircase so steep, you think, would defy
The cat o' the mountain to climb, Tom !
But, 'tis all a delusion—just wisely survey
With your eye, and then take it aslant, Tom,
And you'll find what they say, that you can't find a'way,
Is a tissue of cowardly cant, Tom.
For this, etc.

The worst of all words in the language is—*But*,
For whatever you purpose or plan, Tom,
This weak monosyllable comes in to cut
The sinews that make you a man, Tom.

'Tis noble to dare, *but* not pleasant at all
A lion to meet, where you fare, Tom ;
It may suit you to ride, *but* a rider may fall,
So you sit and you rot in your chair, Tom
For this, etc.

Some people's devotion delights in this notion
Of heaven, that when we get there, Tom,
We'll have nothing to do but to float in the blue,
And pipe a psalm tune in the air, Tom !
If 'tis so in the sky, we shall know by-and-by,
But on earth 'tis much otherwise now, Tom,
Where the battle we fight brings a keener delight
Than the laurels we wear on the brow, Tom.
For this, etc.

The end of all living is simply to live,
Is what Aristotle would say, Tom ;
And form to the formless by labour to give
Is to live the most excellent way, Tom !
A moth in the sunbeam may flutter an hour,
To flutter is all that it can, Tom ;
But to fashion great thoughts into deeds is the dower
God gave to high-reasoning man, Tom !
For this, etc.

If you shrink from no danger where valour avails,
There's nothing can stand in your way, Tom ;
You may start, like stout Lincoln, a splitter of rails,
And be king of the people some day, Tom.
The Romans were lords of the sea and the land,
And what was the reason of that, Tom ?

At the word of command, they marched on sword in hand,
 And they laid all their enemies flat, Tom.
 For this, etc.

My sermon is done—still rejoice in the toils
 That the travel of life may attend, Tom.
 Put foot after foot ; never number the miles ;
 You will know when you come to the end, Tom !
 Fear God ; every atom takes rank at His call ;
 For the world is no rope of sand, Tom ;
 Link hangs upon link ; and 'tis profit to all
 That each march at the word of command, Tom.
 For this is true wisdom, I wish you to know,
 Sail close to the wind when you tack, Tom !
 We live, while we live, by the pluck that we show,
 And if we don't stand, we must flee from the foe,
 And fall with a stab in the back, Tom !

A SONG OF SUMMER

‘ Always in your darkest hours strive to remember your brightest.’
 J. P. RICHTER

SING me a song of Summer,
 For my heart is wintry sad,
 That glorious bright new-comer,
 Who makes all Nature glad !
 Sing me a song of Summer,
 That the dark from the bright may borrow,
 And the part in the radiant whole of things
 May drown its little sorrow !

Sing me a song of Summer,
When God walks forth in light,
And spreads his glowing mantle
O'er the blank and the grey of the night ;
And where he comes, his quickening touch
Revives the insenseate dead,
And the numbed and frozen pulse of things
Beats music to his tread.

Sing me a song of Summer,
With his banners of golden bloom,
That glorious bright new-comer,
Who bears bleak winter's doom,
With banners of gold and of silver,
And wings of rosy display,
And verdurous power in his path,
When he comes in the pride of the May ;

When he comes with his genial sweep
O'er the barren and bare of the scene,
And makes the stiff earth to wave
With an ocean of undulant green ;
With flourish of leafy expansion,
And boast of luxuriant bloom,
And the revel of life as it triumphs
O'er the dust and decay of the tomb

Sing me a song of Summer ;
O God ! what a glorious thing
Is the march of this mighty new-comer
With splenpour of life on his wing !

When he quickens the pulse of creation,
 And maketh all feebleness strong,
 Till it spreads into blossoms of beauty,
 And burst into pæans of song !

Sing me a song of Summer !
 Though my heart be wintry and sad,
 The thought of this blessed new-comer
 Shall foster the germ of the glad.
 'Neath the veil of my grief let me cherish
 The joy that shall rush into day,
 When the bane of the winter shall perish
 In the pride and the power of the May.

FAREWELL TO SUMMER

(Written at Oban)

I HEARD the whistling North wind say
 When it came down with power,
 Athwart the russet ferny brae,
 And by the old grey tower :
 I heard the whistling North wind say,
 Bright Summer suns no more
 Shall shine on Oban's dimpled bay,
 And green Dunolly's shore.

I saw a fox-glove in the dell
 Beneath the crag so grey,
 One lonely, lean, belated bell,
 And thus it seemed to say :

The glory of the June is past,
 My purple kin are gone,
 And I am left a poor outcast
 To die in the cold alone !

I saw the long black ragged cloud
 O'er cap the frowning Bens,
 And trails of thick blue mist enshroud
 The green far-gleaming glens ;
 And thus the black cloud seemed to say,
 Now Summer suns are dim,
 The stout old Winter holds his sway,
 And I will reign with him.

And is it so ?—brightest of things,
 God's beauty-vested Summer,
 Shall it depart on hasty wings
 That was so late a comer,
 And I who lived with fragrant breeze,
 Blue skies, and purple braes,
 On hueless flowers and leafless trees
 Must feed my widowed gaze ?

It may not be : up ! let us go !
 I will not stay and look
 Where gorgeous Nature's pictured show
 Is now a blotted book.
 Let Nature die ! She'll live again
 When six dull months expire ;
 Meanwhile against both wind and rain
 Heap we the blazing fire,

Snug in the chambered town ! and call
 My troup of friends together,
 And for six months let no word fall
 Of Nature, wind, or weather ;
 And ply the work of thought or art
 That helps both self and neighbour,
 And sing with glad and guileless heart
 The song that seasons labour.

And bring the grey tomes from the shelves
 And learn strong will from Cato.
 And take high value of ourselves
 From lofty-thoughted Plato :
 And, while with friendly cheer we pass
 The rare, rich-blooded bottle,
 Give learnèd flavour to the glass
 By saws from Aristotle !

And then we'll talk of Church and State,
 And wish the hangman's rope
 To wed their necks to righteous Fate
 Who love the Roman Pope !
 And blame the loons who gave the sway
 To the mere polled majority,
 With clamorous yells to overbray
 The voice of grave authority.

And then,—why then, we'll go to bed,
 And wake, above all sorrow
 Of factious brawls to lift our head,
 By faithful work to-morrow,—

Work through long weeks of blustering storm,
And winter's gloomy reign,
Till the great pulse of things grow warm,
And Nature lives again.

And suns shall shine, and birds shall sing,
And odorous breezes blow,
And ferns uncurl their folded wing
Where star-eyed flowerets grow ;
And surly blasts shall cease to bray,
And stormy seas to roar
On Oban's warm sun-fronting bay,
And green Dunolly's shore.

A SONG OF THE COUNTRY

(Written near Witley, in Surrey)

Away from the roar and the rattle,
The dust and the din of the town,
Where to live is to brawl and to battle,
Till the strong treads the weak man down !
Away to the bonnie green hills
Where the sunshine sleeps on the brae,
And the heart of the greenwood thrills
To the hymn of the bird on the spray.

Away from the smoke and the smother,
The veil of the dun and the brown,
The push and the splash and the pother,
The wear and the waste of the town !

Away where the sky shines clear,
And the light breeze wanders at will,
And the dark pine-wood nods near
To the light-plumed birch on the hill.

Away from the whirling and wheeling,
And steaming above and below,
Where the heart has no leisure for feeling,
And the thought has no quiet to grow.
Away where the clear brook purls,
And the hyacinth droops in the shade,
And the wing of the fern uncoils
Its grace in the depth of the glade.

Away to the cottage so sweetly
Embowered 'neath the fringe of the wood,
Where the wife of my bosom shall meet me
With thoughts ever kindly and good.
More dear than the wealth of the world,
Fond mother with bairnies three,
And the plump-armed babe that has curled
Its lips sweetly pouting for me.

Then away from the war and the rattle
The dust and the din of the town,
Where to live is to brawl and to battle
Till the strong treads the weak man down.
Away where the green twigs nod
In the fragrant breath of the May,
And the sweet growth spreads on the sod,
And the blithe birds sing on the spray.

THE MUSICAL FROGS *

BREKEKEKEX ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !
 How sweet ye sing ! Would God that I
 Upon the bubbling pool might lie,
 And sun myself to-day
 With you ! No curtained bride, I ween,
 Nor pillow'd babe, nor cushioned queen,
 Nor tiny fay on emerald green,
 Nor silken lady gay,
 Lies on a softer couch. O Heaven !
 How many a lofty mortal, riven
 By keen-fanged inflammation,
 Might change his lot with yours, to float
 On sunny pond with bright green coat,
 And sing with gently throbbing throat
 Amid the croaking nation,
 Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !

Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !
 Happy the bard who weaves his rhyme
 Recumbent on the purple thyme,
 In the fragrant month of June ;

* Some dozen or more years ago, while living at Liebenstein, a German hydropathic establishment in Sachse-Meiningen, I took a stroll across the country on a hot summer's day ; when coming near some low marshy ground I became aware of a concert of soft musical notes, floating up gently from the pools of water among the reeds. Never having heard anything of the kind before, I went close up to the brink of the water, and soon found that this most sweet discourse came from a colony of green frogs. Their music made such an impression on me, that on the way back to my water-quarters I wrote some lines as a memorandum of the event, and as a sample of the philosophy of enjoyment, in which frogs belike are sometimes wiser than men.—J.S.B.

Happy the sage, whose lofty mood
Doth with far-searching ken intrude
Into the vast infinitude

Of things beyond the moon ;
But happier not the wisest man
Whose daring thought leads on the van
Of star-eyed speculation,
Than thou, quick-legged, light-bellied thing,
Within the green pond's reedy ring,
That with a murmurous joy dost sing

Among the croaking nation,
Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !

Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !
Great Jove with dark clouds sweeps the
sky,
Where thunders roll and lightnings fly,
And gusty winds are roaring ;
Fierce Mars his stormy steed bestrides,
And, lashing wild its bleeding sides,
O'er dead and dying madly rides,
Where the iron hail is pouring.
'Tis well ; such crash of mighty Powers
Must be : the spell may not be ours
To tame the hot creation.
But little frogs with paddling foot
Can sing when gods and kings dispute,
And little bards can strum the lute
Amid the croaking nation,
With Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy
frogs !

Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !
 Farewell ! not always I may sing
 Around the green pond's reedy ring
 With you, ye boggy Muses !
 But I must go and do stern battle
 With herds of stiff-necked human cattle,
 Whose eager lust of windy prattle
 The gentle rein refuses.
 O if !—but all such *ifs* are vain ;
 I'll go and blow my trump again,
 With brazen iteration :
 And when, by Logic's iron rule,
 I've quashed each briskly babbling fool,
 I'll seek again your gentle school,
 And hum beside the tuneful pool
 Amid the croaking nation,
 Brekekekex ! coax ! coax ! O happy happy frogs !

THE SONG OF MRS JENNY GEDDES

Air—‘ British Grenadiers ’

SOME praise the fair Queen Mary, and some the good
 Queen Bess,
 And some the wise Aspasia, beloved by Pericles ;
 But o'er all the world's brave women there's one that
 bears the rule,
 The valiant Jenny Geddes, that flung the four-legged
 stool.
With a row-dow—at them now!—Jenny fling the stool!

"Twas the twenty-third of July, in the sixteen thirty-seven,
On Sabbath morn from high St Giles', the solemn peal was given :
King Charles had sworn that Scottish men should pray by printed rule ;
He sent a book, but never dreamt of danger from a stool.
With a row-dow—yes, I trow !—there's danger in a stool !

The Council and the Judges, with ermined pomp elate,
The Provost and the Bailies in gold and crimson state,
Fair silken-vested ladies, grave Doctors of the school,
Were there to please the King, and learn the virtue of a stool.

With a row-dow—yes, I trow !—there's virtue in a stool !

The Bishop and the Dean came wi' mickle gravity,
Right smooth and sleek, but lordly pride was lurking in their e'e ;

Their full lawn sleeves were blown and big, like seals in briny pool ;

They bore a book, but little thought they soon should feel a stool.

With a row-dow—yes, I trow !—they'll feel a four-legged stool !

The Dean he to the altar went, and, wi' a solemn look,
He cast his eyes to heaven, then read the curious-printed book ;

In Jenny's heart the blood upwelled with bitter anguish
full ;

Sudden she started to her legs, and stoutly grasped
the stool !

With a row-dow—at them now!—firmly grasp the stool!

As when a mountain cat springs upon a rabbit small.
So Jenny on the Dean springs, with gush of holy gall ;
*Wilt thou say the mass at my lug, thou Popish-puling
fool?*

No ! no ! she said, and at his head she flung the four-legged stool.

With a row-dow—at them now!—Jenny fling the stool!

A bump, a thump ! a smash, a crash ! now gentle folks
beware !

Stool after stool, like rattling hail, came tirling through
the air,

With, Well done, Jenny ! bravo, Jenny ! that's the
proper tool !

When the Deil will out, and shows his snout, just
meet him with a stool.

*With a row-dow—at them now!—there's nothing like
a stool!*

The Council and the Judges were smitten with strange
fear,

The ladies and the Bailies their seats did deftly clear,
The Bishop and the Dean went, in sorrow and in dool,
And all the Popish flummery fled, when Jenny showed
the stool !

*With a row-dow—at them now!—Jenny show the
stool!*

And thus a mighty deed was done by Jenny's valiant hand,
 Black Prelacy and Popery she drove from Scottish land ;
 King Charles he was a shuffling knave, priest Laud a pedant-fool,
 But Jenny was a woman wise, who beat them with a stool !
With a row-dow—yes, I trow!—she conquered by the stool !

MOMENTS

IN the beauty of life's budding,
 When young pulses beat with hope,
 And a purple light is flooding
 Round thought's blossoms as they ope ;
 When the poet's song is dearest,
 And, where sacred anthems swell,
 Every word of power thou hearest
 Holds thy spirit like a spell ;
 O these are moments, fateful moments,
 Big with issue—use them well !

When a sudden gust hath tumbled
 Hope's bright architecture down ;
 When some prouder fair hath humbled
 Thy proud passion with a frown ;
 When thy dearest friends deceive thee,
 And cold looks thy love repel,

And the bitter humours grieve thee,
 That make God's fair earth a hell ;
 O these are moments, trying moments,
 Meant to try thee—use them well !

When a flash of truth hath found thee,
 Where thy foot in darkness trod,
 When thick clouds dispart around thee,
 And thou standest nigh to God.
 When a noble soul comes near thee,
 In whom kindred virtues dwell,
 That from faithless doubts can clear thee,
 And with strengthening love compel ;
 O these are moments, rare fair moments ;
 Sing and shout, and use them well !

When a haughty threat hath cowed thee,
 And with weak, unmanly shame,
 Ignoble thou hast bowed thee
 To the terror of a name ;
 And then God holds the mirror
 Where thy better self doth dwell,
 And thou dost start with terror,
 And thy tears gush like a well ;
 O these are moments, blessed moments ;
 Weep and pray, and use them well !

In the pride of thy succeeding,
 When, beneath thy high command,
 Every soul must own the leading
 Of thy strong controlling hand ;
 When wide cheers of acclamation
 Round thy march of triumph swell,

And the plaudits of a nation
 Every thought of fear expel ;
 O these are moments, slippery moments ;
 Watch and pray, and use them well !

When the term of life hath found thee,
 And thou smilest upon Fate,
 And the golden sheaves around thee
 For the angels' sickle wait ;
 When the pure love thou achievest
 Doth the mortal pang expel,
 And a shining track thou leavest
 To dear friends that love thee well ;
 O these are moments, happy moments ;
 Bless God, with whom all issues dwell !

SABBATH HYMN ON THE MOUNTAINS

PRAISE ye the Lord !
 Not in the temple of shapeliest mould,
 Polished with marble and gleaming with gold,
 Piled upon pillars of slenderest grace,
 But here in the blue sky's luminous face
 Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !
 Not where the organ's melodious wave
 Dies 'neath the rafters that narrow the nave,
 But here with the free wind's wandering sweep,
 Here with the billow that booms from the deep,
 Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !

Not where the pale-faced multitudes meet
In the sweltering lane and the dun-visaged street,
But here where bright ocean, thick sown with green
isles,

Feeds the glad eye with a harvest of smiles,

Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !

Here where the strength of the old granite Ben
Towers o'er the greenswarded grace of the glen,
Where the birch flings its fragrance abroad on the
hill,

And the bee o'er the heather-bloom wanders at will,

Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !

Here where the loch, the dark mountain's fair daughter,
Down the red scaur flings the white-streaming water,
Leaping and tossing and swirling for ever
Down to the bed of the smooth-rolling river,

Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !

Not where the voice of a preacher instructs you,
Not where the hand of a mortal conducts you,
But where the bright welkin in scripture of glory
Blazons Creation's miraculous story,

Praise ye the Lord !

Praise ye the Lord !
 The wind and the welkin, the sun and the river,
 Weaving a tissue of wonders for ever ;
 The mead and the mountain, the flower and the
 tree,
 What is their pomp but a vision of Thee,
 Wonderful Lord ?

Praise ye the Lord !
 Not in the square-hewn, many-tiered pile,
 Not in the long-drawn, dim-shadowed aisle,
 But where the vast world, with age never hoary,
 Flashes His brightness and thunders His glory,
 Praise ye the Lord !

LAWS OF NATURE

THE fool hath in his heart declared,—by laws
 Since time began,
 Blind and without intelligential cause,
 Or reasoned plan,
 All things are ruled. I from this lore dissent,
 With sorrowful shame
 That reasoning men such witless wit should vent
 In reason's name.
 O Thou that o'er this lovely world hast spread
 Thy jocund light,
 Weaving with flowers beneath, and stars o'erhead
 This tissue bright

Of living powers, clear Thou my sense, that I
May ever find
In all the marshalled pomp of earth and sky
The marshalling mind !
Laws are not powers ; nor can the well-timed courses
Of earths and moons
Ring to the stroke of blind unthinking forces
Their jarless tunes.
Wiser were they who in the flaming vault
The circling sun
Beheld, and in his ray, with splendid fault,
Worshipped the one
Eye of the universe that seeth all,
And shapeth sight
In man and moth through curious visual ball
With fine delight.
A blessed beam, on whose refreshful might,
Profusely shed
Eight times ten years, with ever young delight
Mine eye hath fed,
Still let me love thee, and with wonder new,
By flood and field,
Worship the fair, and consecrate the true
By thee revealed !
And loving thee, beyond thee love that first
Father of Lights
From whom the ray vivific marvellous burst,
Might of all mighty,
Whose thought is order, and whose will is law.
That man is wise
Who worships God wide-eyed, with cheerful awe
And chaste surprise.

BENEDICITE

ANGELS holy,
High and lowly,
Sing the praises of the Lord !
Earth and sky, all living nature,
Man, the stamp of thy Creator,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Sun and moon bright,
Night and noonlight,
Starry temples azure-floored,
Cloud and rain, and wild winds' madness,
Breeze that floats with genial gladness,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Ocean hoary,
Tell His glory,
Cliffs, where tumbling seas have roared !
Pulse of waters blithely beating,
Wave advancing, wave retreating,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Rock and high land,
Wood and island,
Crag where eagle's pride hath soared,
Mighty mountains purple-breasted,
Peaks cloud-heaving, snowy-crested,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Rolling river,
 Praise Him ever,
 From the mountain's deep-vein poured ;
 Silver fountain clearly gushing,
 Troubled torrent madly rushing,
 Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Bond and free man,
 Land and sea man,
 Earth with peoples widely stored,
 Wanderer lone o'er prairies ample,
 Full-voiced choir in costly temple,
 Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord !

Praise Him ever,
 Bounteous Giver !
 Praise Him, Father, Friend, and Lord !
 Each glad soul its free course winging,
 Each blithe voice its free song singing,
 Praise the great and mighty Lord ! *

CREEDS AND CANARIES

I HAD a sweet canary bird,
 Whose little wing was never stirred
 Beyond the wires around it ;
 I looked upon my dainty bird,
 And, while I looked, my heart was stirred
 To think that pretty imprisoned thing
 May never flap its native wing
 Beyond the bars that bound it !

* (Set to the air *Alles Schweige*, also set to music by Mr W. H. Jude and by A. S. W.).

I went and ope'd the little door,
And looked ; but, sooth, I wondered sore
 To see my small canary :
With jerking head and pecking bill,
Within the wires it tarried still,
And had no lust abroad to spring,
And flit about with ransomed wing
 In ample range and airy !

Well, well ! quoth I, 'tis plain to see
You have no notion to be free,
 So stay within your cage now !
And yet, methinks you are no fool,
And, safely bound by customed rule,
You wisely shun a larger home,
Where cats and deathful dogs may roam,
 If you should leave your cage now !

If birds are wise, men are not fools,
For they too have their customed rules
 And pretty gilded cages ;
And, should you wish to make them free,
Just ope the door, and you will see
No folded wing they 'gin to stir,
But much the prudent ease prefer
 Of their own gilded cages.

The lawyer and the grave D.D.,
Who find strong bond of unity
 In old time-hallowed pages,

With sanctioned text and hoary creed
 And fond tradition serve their need,
 And live as safe and shielded well
 As lobsters in close mailed shell,
 Or birds in gilded cages.

And, though you make a dusty din,
 They wrap them closer in their skin,
 And con their ancient lessons ;
 And they are wise ; for who can tell
 What risks may lurk and dangers fell
 To helmless souls all tossed about
 In seas of drivel and of doubt,
 Unmoored from old Confessions ?

HYMN

Air—‘ Belmont ’

O FOR a heart from self set free,
 And doubt and fret, and care,
 Light as a bird, instinct with glee,
 That fans the breezy air !

O for a mind whose virtue moulds
 All sensuous fair display,
 And, like a strong commander, holds
 A world of thoughts in sway !

O for an eye that's clear to see,
 A hand that waits on Fate,
 To pluck the ripe fruit from the tree,
 And never comes too late !

O for a life with firm-set root,
 And breadth of leafy green,
 And flush of blooming wealth, and fruit
 That glows with mellow sheen !

O for a death from sharp alarms
 And bitter memories free :
 A gentle death in God's own arms,
 Whose dear Son died for me !

A SONG OF FATHERLAND BY A
 TRAVELLER

Air—‘ Ho ! are ye sleeping, Maggie ? ’

I’VE wandered east, I’VE wandered west,
 In gipsy-wise a random roamer ;
 Of men and minds I’VE known the best,
 Like that far-travelled king in Homer.
 But O ! for the land that bore me,
 O ! for the stout old land,
 Of breezy Ben and winding glen,
 And roaring flood and sounding strand !

I’VE seen the domes of Moscow far,
 In green and golden glory gleaming ;
 And stood where sleeps the mighty Czar,
 By Neva’s flood so grandly streaming.
 But O ! etc.

I've stood on many a storied spot,
Where blood of heroes flowed like rivers,
Where Deutschland rose at Gravelotte,
And dashed the strength of Gaul to shivers.
But O ! etc.

I've stood where stands in pillared pride,
The shrine of Jove's spear-shaking daughter,
And humbled Persia stained the tide
Of free Greek seas with heaps of slaughter.
But O ! etc.

I've stood upon the rocky crest,
Where Jove's proud eagle spreads his pinion,
Where looked the God far east, far west,
And all he saw was Rome's dominion.
But O ! etc.

I've fed my eyes by land and sea,
With sights of grandeur streaming o'er me,
But still my heart remains with thee,
Dear Scottish land, that stoutly bore me.
O ! for the land that bore me,
O ! for the stout old land,
With mighty Ben, and winding glen,
Stout Scottish land, my own dear land !

HAIL, LAND OF MY FATHERS!

HAIL, land of my fathers ! I stand on thy shore,
'Neath the broad-fronted bluffs of thy granite once
more ;

Old Scotland, my mother, the rugged, the bare,
That reared me with breath of the strong mountain
air.

No more shall I roam where soft indolence lies
'Neath the cloudless repose of the featureless skies,
But where the white mist sweeps the red-furrowed
scaur,

I will fight with the storm and grow strong by the
war !

What boots all the blaze of the sky and the billow,
Where manhood must rot on inglorious pillow ?
'Tis the blossom that blooms from the taint of the
grave,

'Tis the glitter that gildeth the bonds of the slave.
But, Scotland, stern mother, for struggle and toil
Thou trainest thy children on hard, rocky soil ;
And thy stiff-purposed heroes go conquering forth,
With the strength that is bred by the blasts of the
north.

Hail, Scotland, my mother ! and welcome the day
When again I shall brush the bright dew from the
brae,

And, light as a bird, give my foot to the heather,
My hand to my staff, and my face to the weather :

Then climb to the peak where the ptarmigan flies,
 Or stand by the linn where the salmon will rise,
 And vow never more with blind venture to roam
 From the strong land that bore me—my own Scottish
 home.

CAPPED AND DOCTORED AND A'

A SONG OF DEGREES

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Air—‘Woo’d and Married and a’

I YINCE was a light-headed laddie,
 A dreaming and daundering loon,
 Just escaped from the rod o’ my daddie,
 And the skirts o’ my mither’s broun goun.
 But now I cut loftier capers,
 And the beer that I drink is nae sma’,
 When I see my ane name in the papers,
 Capped and Doctored and a’.

Capped and Doctored and a’,
 Doctored and Capped and a’!
 Right sure ’tis a beautiful thing
 To be Capped and Doctored and a’!

My parish I wadna besmutch
 Wi’ words that look heartless and hard ;
 But I knew there of life just as much,
 As a hen in the farmer’s kail yard.
 I got a good tailor to suit me,
 My feet were richt decently shod ;

But the smell o' the peat was about me,
 And my manners were awkward and odd !
 Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a',
 I'm as proud as a Pope or a King,
 To be Capped and Doctored and a' !

Frae the school I came up to the College,

As a calf comes up to a cow ;
 Wi' a wonderful thirst for all knowledge,
 And scraps of learning a few !

Through Virgil I stoutly could hammer,

A book, or it may be twa ;
 And Greek, just a taste o' the grammar,
 To look better than naething ava !

Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a' !
 I'm as proud as a Pope or a King,
 To be Capped and Doctored and a' !

A wonderful place is the College ;

I felt like a worm getting wings,
 When I heard the great mill-wheel of knowledge
 Turn round with all possible things !

A marvellous place is the College ;
 Professor's a marvellous man,
 To find for such mountains of knowledge
 Such room in a single brain-pan !

Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a' !
 I feel like a bird on the wing,
 When I'm Capped and Doctored and a' !

All races and peoples and nations
 Were lodged in that wonderful brain ;
 Proud systems and big speculations,
 All possible things to explain.
 All creatures at various stages,
 From mollusc and monkey to man,
 Through millions of billions of ages.
 That make up life's wonderful plan !
 Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a' !
 It gives one a wonderful swing
 To be Capped and Doctored and a' !

I confess I was glamoured at first—
 Looked round wi' a stupid surprise ;
 But from session to session their burst
 New light on my widening eyes :
 I could talk of attraction and force,
 Of motion and mind and matter ;
 And thought it a thing quite of course,
 When phosphorus burnt in the water.
 Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a' !
 The lad has the genuine ring
 Who is Capped and Doctored and a'.

My logic is lithe as an eel,
 My philosophy deep as a well ;
 My rhetoric spins like a wheel,
 My Greek for a Scot pretty well.
 Of my Bible I know quite enough,
 Not, like Chalmers, to preach and to pray,

But to give a glib fool a rebuff,
 And to keep the black devil at bay !
 Capped and Doctored and a',
 Doctored and Capped and a' !
 I leap and I dance and I sing,
 Now Capped and Doctored and a' !

You may ca' me a lean, lanky student,
 A chicken new out o' the shell ;
 But with time, if I'm patient and prudent,
 I may be Professor mysel'.
 My head with citations well stocket,
 I may sit in the chair at my ease,
 With a thousand a year in my pocket,
 And six months to do what I please.
 I'll know how to find my own place
 In the world, with great and with sma' ;
 And I'll no be the last in the race,
 Being Capped and Doctored and a' !

Then fill your glasses, my boys,
 Let mirth and jollity sway !
 'Tis fit with my friends to rejoice,
 When I'm Capped and Doctored to-day !
 This night may not stupidly pass
 With beer, or coffee, or tea ;
 But of champagne a bright sparkling glass
 Shall foam to my noble degree !
 Brim your glasses, my boys !
 In the Church, or it may be the law,
 Tom Tidy will yet make a noise,
 Being Capped and Doctored an a' !

A SONG OF GOOD GREEKS

Air—‘Seit Vater Noah in Becher goss’

SINCE Martin Luther the ink-horn threw,
Which worked the Devil much woe,
The power of Greek in Europe grew,
And groweth and ever shall grow ;
For never was language at all,
So magical-swelling,
So spirit-compelling,
As Homer rolled,
In billows of gold,
And Plato, and Peter, and Paul.

Etruscan, Hebrew, and Sanscrit are dead,
And Latin will die with the Pope,
But Greek still blooms like a thymy bed,
On brown Hymettus' slope ;
For never was language at all,
That billowed so grandly,
And flowed out so blandly,
And never will die
Till men deny
The faith both of Plato and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
Here's Homer, who sang of old Troy,
A sunny sprite all robed in light,
And crowned with beauty and joy ;

For surely no minstrel at all
 E'er poured such a river,
 Of verses that never
 Will cease to flow,
 While men shall know
 The Gospel of Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
 Here's Pindar, the eagle sublime,
 Who soars where Jove's red lightning flares,
 And his awful thunders chime ;
 For never was poet at all,
 In boxing and racing,
 And pedigree-tracing,
 So learned as he,
 And worthy to be
 Canonised both with Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares ? here's Socrates,
 Who first by logical spell
 From Olympus' crown brought wisdom down,
 With mortal men to dwell ;
 And sure never sage was at all,
 Who mingled sound reason
 With such pleasant season
 Of mirth and fun,
 And died like one
 Well gospelled by Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
 Here's Plato will pass for a god,

Who for new worlds new men prepares,
On a plan both pleasant and odd ;
For sure never sage was at all
 So loftily soaring,
 So lavishly pouring
 Of nectar fine,
 The draught divine,
Only second to Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
 Here's Aristotle, the wise,
Who sniffs about with learnèd snout,
 And scans with critical eyes ;
 And sure never sage was at all
 So crammed with all knowledge,
 A walking college,
 Who many things knew,
 I tell you true,
Unknown both to Peter and Paul !

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
 Here's mighty Demosthenes, who,
When traitors sold fair Greece for gold,
 Alone stood faithful and true ;
 For sure never man was at all
 Who flung his oration
 With such fulmination
 Of scorching power
 'Gainst the sins of the hour,
Like epistles of Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
Here's Zeno, Cleanthes, and all,
Who set their face, with a manly grace,
To follow where duty might call ;
For sure never men were at all
So steeled in all virtue
That flesh may be heir to,
And ready to die,
With never a sigh,
For the truth, just like Peter and Paul.

Who'll buy my wares, my old Greek wares ?
Here's Proclus, Plotinus, and all,
Who climb on Plato's golden stairs
To the super-celestial hall ;
And sure never men were at all
Who lived so devoutly,
And grappled so stoutly
With flesh and blood,
And tramped in the mud
The Devil, like Peter and Paul.

Come, buy my wares, each learned elf.
Who culls Parnassian herbs,
And swears by Liddell and Scott, and Jelf,
And Veitch's irregular verbs !
For this I declare to you all,
Greek gives you a station
Sublime with the nation
Of gods above,
All hand and glove
With Plato, and Peter, and Paul.

Of all the thoughtful sons of Time,
The Greeks were wisest, that's clear ;
The Germans preach a lore sublime,
But it smells of tobacco and beer ;
And this I declare to you all,
Though Kant, and such fellows
Know something, they tell us,
They never will do
To tie the shoe
To Plato, or Peter, or Paul.

Some think that man from a monkey grew
By steps of long generation,
When, after many blunders, a few
Good hits were made in creation ;
But I can't comprehend this at all ;
Of blind-groping forces
Though Darwin discourses,
I rather incline
To believe in design,
With Plato, and Peter, and Paul.

There's one Thomas Buckle, a London youth,
Who taught that the world was blind
Till he was born to proclaim the truth,
That matter is moulder of mind ;
But I really can't fancy at all
How wheat, rice, and barley,
Made Dick, Tom, and Charlie
So tidy and trim,
Without help from Him
Who was preached both by Plato and Paul.

There's one John Bright, a Manchester man,
Who taught the Tories to rule
By setting their stamp on his patent plan
For renewing the youth of John Bull ;
But I say that it won't do at all.
To seek for salvation
By mere numeration
Of polls would surprise,
If they were to rise,
Not a little both Plato and Paul.

Then praise with me the old Greek times,
When men were lusty and strong,
And gods laughed merry in sunny climes,
And wisdom was wedded to song ;
For this I declare to you all,
Bright may tickle your palate
With suffrage and ballot,
But you'll die a fool
If you don't go to school
With Plato, and Peter, and Paul.

A SONG OF GEOLOGY

I'LL sing you a ditty that needs no apology—
Attend, and keep watch in the gates of your
ears !—
Of the famous new science which men call Geology,
And gods call the story of millions of years.

Millions, millions—did I say millions ?
 Billions and trillions are more like the fact !
 Millions, billions, trillions, quadrillions,
 Make the long sum of creation exact !

Confusion and Chaos, with wavering pinion,
 First swayed o'er the weltering ferment of things,
 When all over all held alternate dominion,
 And the slaves of to-day were to-morrow the kings.
 Chaos, Chaos, infinite wonder !
 Wheeling and reeling on wavering wings ;
 Whence issued the world, which some think a
 blunder,
 A rumble and tumble and jumble of things !

The minim of being, the dot of creation,
 The germ of Sire Adam, of you and of me,
 In the folds of the gneiss in Laurentian station,
 Far west from the roots of Cape Wrath you may
 see.
 Minims of being, budding and bursting,
 All on the floor of the measureless sea !
 Small, but for mighty development thirsting,
 With throbs of the future, like you, Sir, and
 me !

The waters, now big with a novel sensation,
 Brought corals and buckies and bivalves to view,
 Who dwell in shell houses, a soft-bodied nation ;
 But fishes with fins were yet none in the blue.

Buckies and bivalves, a numberless nation !
Buckies, and bivalves, and trilobites too !
These you will find in Silurian station,
When Ramsay and Murchison sharpen your
view.

Then fins were invented ; when Queen Amphitrite
Stirred up her force from Devonian beds,
The race of the fishes in ocean grew mighty,
Queer-looking fishes with bucklers for heads.
Fishes, fishes—small greedy fishes !
With wings on their shoulders and horns on
their heads,
With scales bright and shiny, that shoot through
the briny
Cerulean halls on Devonian beds !

God bless the fishes !—but now on the dry land,
In days when the sun shone benign on the poles,
Forests of ferns in the low and the high land
Spread their huge fans, soon to change into coals !
Forests of ferns—a wonderful verity !
Rising like palm trees beneath the North
Pole ;
And all to prepare for the golden prosperity
Of John Bull reposing on iron and coal.

Now Nature the eye of the gazer entrances
With wonder on wonder from teeming abodes ;
From the gills of the fish to true lungs she advances,
And bursts into blossoms of tadpoles and toads.

Strange Batrachian people, Triassic all,
 Like hippopotamus huge on the roads !
 You may call them ungainly, uncouth, and
 unclassical,
 But great in the reign of the Trias were Toads

Behold, a strange monster our wonder engages,
 If dolphin or lizard your wit may defy,
 Some thirty feet long on the shore of Lyme-Regis,
 With a saw for a jaw, and a big staring eye.
 A fish or a lizard? an ichthyosaurus,
 With a big goggle eye, and a very small brain,
 And paddles like mill-wheels in clattering chorus,
 Smiting tremendous the dread-sounding main !

And here comes another ! can shape more absurd be,
 The strangest and oddest of vertebrate things ?
 Who knows if this creature a beast or a bird be,
 A fowl without feathers, a serpent with wings ?
 A beast or a bird—an equivocal monster !
 A crow or a crocodile, who can declare ?
 A greedy, voracious, long-necked monster,
 Skimming the billow, and ploughing the air.

Next rises to view the great four-footed nation,
 Hyenas and tapirs, a singular race,
 You may pick up their wreck from the great Paris
 basin,
 At the word of command every bone finds its
 place.

Palæothere, very singular creature !
 A horse or a tapir, or both can you say ?
 Showing his grave pachydermatous feature,
 Just where the Frenchman now sips his café.

And now the life-temple grows vaster and vaster,
 Only the pediment fails to the plan ;
 The winged and the wingless are waiting their
 master,
 The Mammoth is howling a welcome to Man.
 Mammoth, Mammoth ! mighty old Mammoth !
 Strike with your hatchet and cut a good slice ;
 The bones you will find, and the hide of the
 mammoth,
 Packed in stiff cakes of Siberian ice.

At last the great biped, the crown of the mammals,
 Sire Adam, majestic, comes treading the sod,
 A measureless animal, free without trammels
 To swing all the space from an ape to a god.
 Wonderful biped, erect and featherless !
 Sport of two destinies, treading the sod,
 With the perilous licence, unbridled and tether-
 less,
 To sink to a devil or rise to a god.

And thus was completed—miraculous wonder !
 The world, this mighty mysterious thing ;
 I believe it is more than a beautiful blunder,
 And worship, and pray, and adore, while I sing.

Wonder and miracle!—God made the wonder;
 Come, happy creatures, and worship with me!
 I know it is more than a beautiful blunder,
 And I hope Tait, and Tyndall, and Huxley
 agree.

CONCERNING I AND NON-I

A METAPHYSICAL SONG

*Air—‘Seit Vater Noah’**

SINCE father Noah first tapped the vine,
 And warmed his jolly old nose,
 All men to drinking do much incline,
 But why, no drinker yet knows;
 We drink and we never think how!
 And yet, in our drinking,
 The root of deep thinking
 Lies very profound,
 As I will expound
 To all who will drink with me now!

The poets, God knows, a jovial race,
 Have ever been lauding of wine;
 Of Bacchus they sing, and his rosy face,
 And the draught of the beaker divine;

* The idea of this song is taken from Baggesen's song in Methfessel's *Liederbuch*. In the execution I gave myself free reins, feeling that to attempt a translation in such a peculiar case would have been to insure failure.—J. S. B.

Yet all their fine phrases are vain ;
 They pour out the essence
 Of brain-effervescence,
 With rhyme and rant
 And jingling cant,
 But nothing at all they explain.

But I, who quaff the thoughtful well
 Of Plato and old Aristotle,
 And Kant and Fichte and Hegel can tell
 The wisdom that lies in the bottle ;
 I drink, and in drinking I know :
 With glance keen and nimble
 I pierce through the symbol,
 And seize the soul
 Of truth in the bowl,
 Behind the mere sensuous show !

Now brim your glass, and plant it well
 Beneath your nose on the table,
 And you will find what philosophers tell
 Of I and non-I is no fable.
 Now, listen to wisdom, my son !
 Myself am the subject,
 This wine is the object ;
 These things are two,
 But I'll prove to you
 That subject and object are one.

I take this glass in my hand, and stand
 Upon my legs if I can,
 And look and smile benign and bland,
 And feel that I am a man.

Now stretch all the strength of your brains !
 I drink—and the object
 Is lost in the subject,
 Making one entity,
 In the identity
 Of me, and the wine in my veins !

And now if Hamilton, Fraser, or Mill
 This point can better explain,
 You may learn from them, with method and skill,
 To plumb the abyss of your brain ;
 But this simple faith I avow,
 The root of true thinking
 Lies just in deep drinking,
 As I have shown
 In a way of my own,
 To this jolly good company now.

SONG OF A BACHELOR IN DIVINITY

Air—‘Seit Vater Noah in Becher goss’

I’VE stood my trials, I’ve left the school,
 I’m capped with a learned B.D.,
 Of Latin and Greek and Hebrew I’m full,
 Old Wisdom dwelleth with me ;
 And now, if you’ll list to my rhymes,
 I’ll flap my young pinions
 In my new dominions,
 And vent what I may
 In a delicate way ;
 For stone walls have ears sometimes.

I'm a Protestant good ; I hate the Pope,
 In every shape and degree,
 The Popish Pope, and the Presbyter Pope,
 And all the Popes that be ;
 For this above all things I prize,
 To have free admission,
 With no man's permission,
 Both early and late,
 Through the gracious gate,
 To the prayer-hearing God in the skies.

I hate the Pope ; and in God's own book
 I read the message of grace,
 And I claim a freeman's right to look
 The Master I serve in the face ;
 And I speak this out plainly, because
 If you swear to a lesson
 From human confession,
 You're a muff and a spoon,
 And a blinking poltroon,
 And a traitor to Protestant laws.

Some preach a god so savage and grim,
 When he snorts in his terrible wrath,
 They crouch and cower and fawn to him,
 And lick the dust in his path ;
 But against this I flatly rebel,
 And boldly deny it,
 That such a stern fiat
 Was forged above
 By the Father of love,
 To swamp half His children in hell.

Some say that through their chosen veins
There creeps a magical virtue,
To charm away all sorrows and pains
That issue of Adam is heir to ;
But this is not Gospel at all ;
Not narrowly creeping,
But liberal sweeping,
On sinful race
Came God's free grace,
By the preaching of Peter and Paul.

Some preach a religion of dainty air,
They come with candle and bell,
And cassock and cope and surplice fair,
And might of miraculous spell ;
But this I declare to you all,
That by dresses and laces,
And bows and grimaces,
A man should strive
His soul to shrive,
Stands not in the gospel of Paul.

And now I think you will understand,
Of crotchet, and whim, and conceit,
We can boast enough in this Christian land,
To turn into bitter our sweet ;
Then take my advice sans offence ;
To make harmless the potion,
Of each darling notion,
Just temper the draught,
Before it is quaffed,
With a few drops of plain common sense !

You've heard my song ; if you think it long,
 I'll give you the gist in a line,
 'Tis the letter that kills, in sermon or song,
 The Spirit alone is divine ;
 God's grace comes to me and to you,
 Not by counting of beads well,
 Or conning of creeds well,
 But by resolute will
 To struggle with ill,
 And by faith that can dare and can do !

YOUNG MAN, BE WISE !

Air—‘ One there is above all others ’

WOULD'ST thou reap life's golden treasure,
 Young man, be wise !
 Cease to follow where light pleasure
 Cheats blinking eyes ;
 Let no flattering voices win thee,
 Let no vauntful echoes din thee,
 But the peace of God within thee
 Seek, and be wise !

Where the fervid cup doth sparkle,
 Young man, be wise !
 Where quick glances gleam and darkle,
 Danger surmise !
 Where the rattling car is dashing,
 Where the shallow wave is plashing,
 Where the coloured foam is flashing,
 Feast not thine eyes !

Rocking on a lazy billow
 With roaming eyes,
 Cushioned on a dreamy pillow,
 Thou art not wise ;
 Wake the power within thee sleeping,
 Trim the plot that's in thy keeping ;
 Thou wilt bless the task when reaping
 Sweet labour's prize.

Since the green earth had beginning,
 Land, sea, and skies,
 Toil their rounds with sleepless spinning,
 Suns sink and rise ;
 God, who with His image crowned us,
 Works within, above, around us ;
 Let us, where His will hath bound us,
 Work and be wise !

All the great, that won before thee
 Stout labour's prize,
 Wave their conquering banners o'er thee ;
 Up, and be wise !
 Wilt thou from their sweat inherit,
 Fruits of peace, and stars of merit,
 While their sword, when thou should'st wear it,
 Rust-eaten lies ?

Work and wait, a sturdy liver ;
 (Life fleetly flies !)
 Work, and pray, and sing, and ever
 Lift hopeful eyes ;

Let no blaring folly din thee !
 Wisdom, when her charm may win thee,
 Flows a well of life within thee ;
 Young man, be wise !

MY LOVES

Air—‘ Shall I wasting in despair ? ’

(Suggested by Anæcreon’s ‘ εἰ φύλλα, κ.τ.λ.’)

NAME the leaves on all the trees,
 Name the waves on all the seas,
 Name the notes of all the groves,
 Thus thou namest all my loves.

I do love the dark, the fair,
 Golden ringlets, raven hair,
 Eye that swims in sunny light,
 Glance that shoots like lightning bright.

I do love the stately dame
 And the sportive girl the same ;
 Every changeful phase between
 Blooming cheek and brow serene.

I do love the young, the old,
 Maiden modest, virgin bold,
 Tiny beauties, and the tall ;
 Earth has room enough for all.

Which is better, who can say,
 Lucy grave or Mary gay?
 She who half her charms conceals,
 She who flashes while she feels?

Why should I my love confine?
 Why should fair be mine or thine?
 If I praise a tulip, why
 Should I pass a primrose by?

Paris was a pedant fool
 Meting beauty by a rule,
 Pallas? Juno? Venus?—he
 Should have chosen all the three.

I am wise life's every bliss
 Thankful tasting; and a kiss
 Is a sweet thing, I declare,
 From a dark maid or a fair!

BONNIE STRATHNAVER

(Sutherlandshire)

(SONG)

BONNIE STRATHNAVER! Sutherland's pride,
 With thy stream softly flowing, and mead spreading
 wide;
 Bonnie Strathnaver, where now are the men
 Who peopled with gladness thy green-mantled glen?
 Bonnie Strathnaver!

Bonnie Strathnaver ! Sutherland's pride,
 Sweet is the breath of the barks on thy side ;
 But where is the blue smoke that curled from the glen,
 When thy lone hills were dappled with dwellings of
 men ?

Bonnie Strathnaver !

Bonnie Strathnaver ! O tearful to tell
 Are the harsh deeds once done in thy bonnie green
 dell,
 When to rocks of the cold blastful ocean were driven
 The men on thy green turfey wilds who had thriven,
 Bonnie Strathnaver !

When the lusty-thewed lad, and the light-tripping maid,
 Looked their last on the hills where their infancy
 strayed,
 When the grey, drooping sire, and the old hirpling
 dame
 Were chased from their hearths by the fierce-spreading
 flame,

Bonnie Strathnaver !

Bonnie Strathnaver ! Sutherland's pride,
 Wide is the ruin that's spread on thy side ;
 The bramble now climbs o'er the old ruined wall,
 And the green fern is rank in the tenantless hall,
 Bonnie Strathnaver !

Bonnie Strathnaver ! Sutherland's pride,
 Loud is the baa of the sheep on thy side,

But the pipe and the song, and the dance are no more,
And gone the brave clansmen who trod thy green floor.
Bonnie Strathnaver ! .

Bonnie Strathnaver ! Sutherland's pride,
Vain are the tears which I weep on thy side ;
The praise of the bard is the meed of the glen,
But where is the charm that can bring back the men
To Bonnie Strathnaver ?

BURRA FIORD

(Shetland)

(SONG)

COME hither all ye Norsemen brave
That ply the limber oar,
We'll have a jolly pull to-day
With you on the Shetland shore !
Landlubbers we, and strange to boats ;
But, if you'll bear a hand,
We'll shake the dust from off our coats
On the breezy Shetland strand.

Chorus—Pull away, pull away, ye jolly Norsemen !
Where the sea-mew floats, and the kittiwake cries,
And the dark-winged guillemots plunge and rise ;
Pull away, pull away, pull away !

Come Jamieson, Johnson, and Sandison,
Come Josie that well may brag
How he plucked the eagle by the throat
From the face of the white sea-crag.

O Josie, Josie ! break-neck loon,
 Where thy strong arms prevail
 We'll take the Fuggla by the crown,
 The Uytstack by the tail !
Chorus—Pull away ! etc.

Now lightly 'neath the toppling rock,
 Ye jolly sailors brave,
 With bounding prow, we plough the deep
 And skim the sheeny wave ;
 While o'er our heads, a gamesome troop,
 The fowls that fish the sea,
 With plumpy plunge and wavy swoop
 Come drifting merrily !
Chorus—Pull away ! etc.

Now gently, gently dip your oars,
 Ye jolly sailors brave,
 While 'neath the rocky arch we pass,
 And through the hollow cave,
 Where the puffins stand, a staring band,
 And wonder who we be
 That dare invade the fortress made
 For them on Shetland sea !
Chorus—Pull away ! etc.

Now turn the helm, and with strong arm
 The sounding billows smite,
 And cross to Fuggla's jagged rock,
 That shows the saviour-light,

And bear us bravely o'er the bay
 Where the huge wave swells with pride,
 And cut your way through foam and spray
 Of the big Atlantic tide !

Chorus—Pull away ! etc.

Now land, and scale the height which bears
 The sailor's radiant mark,
 The tower, by daring builders reared
 To guide the labouring bark,
 Where the tempest stalks with Titan stride,
 And the wave with thundering shock
 Lashes the grim rock's furrowed side,
 And shakes the mighty block ;
Chorus—Pull away ! etc.

Now on the top we stand ; and now
 Our share we proudly claim
 In this extremest horn of land
 That knows Victoria's name.
 God save the Queen !—her praise be told
 On Shetland's Northmost isle,
 With His, the Master-Builder bold
 Who raised this stable pile.

Chorus—Sing hurrah-rah-rah ! ye jolly Norsemen,
 Where the wild blasts blow, and the big waves roll,
 And the strong tower stands with its front to the pole ;
 Sing hurrah, sing hurrah, sing hurrah !

Now fare ye well, ye warders wise,
 Who watch this storm-vext shore !

Backward we plough the heaving flood,
And ply the limber oar.
Landlubbers we, and strange to boats,
But, while we lift an arm,
We'll keep a heart beneath our coats
To Shetland seamen warm.

Chorus—Pull away, pull away, ye jolly Norsemen,
Where the big tides roll, and the strong winds blow ;
For the white fog comes, and we must go ;
Pull away, pull away, pull away !

AWAY, AWAY ADOWN THE STREAM

(A SONG OF LIFE)

THE world drives on, and we drive with it,
And none its course may stay ;
Where the swarm alights we must hive with it,
And with it we must away.
In vain does son of man conceive
His little self so great ;
No art of mortal can deceive
The measured chart of Fate.
Then away, away adown the stream,
With others let us go,
As brothers born to share with them
Their cup of weal and woe.

Where shines the sun, and where falls the rain,
His plough the cottar guides ;

Where blows the wind, and where rolls the main,
The sailor grandly rides :
The heart is glad and the heart is sad,
As time and chance allow ;
And happy never will he be
Who is not happy now.
Then away, away, etc.

In vain, in vain, our sight we strain
Into the vasty void ;
The thing that is to be God veils
From ken of human pride.
He gave thine eye to see His light,
He gave thy blood to flow ;
He gave thine arms to work with might
The work of life below.
Then away, away, etc.

'Tis now a race, and now a march,
Now quick, and now 'tis slow,
Beneath a proud triumphal arch,
Or 'neath a portal low.
But still where it drives, we must drive with it—
Its course we may not stay ;
Where the swarm alights we must hive with it,
And with it we must away.
Then away, away adown the stream,
With others let us go,
And hope and bear, and do and dare,
As time and chance may show !

THE WOOD SORREL

FAIR flower, beneath the dark fir tree
Shaded in delicate pudency,
I'll make a little rhyme to thee

(Some years I owe it) :

Pansies and lilies have their praises,
Small celandines and broad-faced daisies ;
But thou sweet sorrel of the woods,
The tenderest grace of solitudes,
I do not know it,
If thou hast stirred the deeper moods
Of any poet.

Thou'rt like a maiden in the bud,
Bashful, ere life's full-swelling flood
Hath shot into the outer blood
A bolder feeling.

Thy trefoil shield thou spread'st before thee,
That I to find thy flower bend o'er thee,
And wonder how so lowly there
Was set a gem so pure, so fair,
Such charms concealing :
For why should God create the fair
But for revealing ?

Yet have I seen both fair and good
I' the perfect bloom of womanhood,
Who, like thyself, the light eschewed,
Thou wood nymph fairest !

And wept to think how foplings shallow,
 Left such deep quiet virtue fallow,
 To feed vain gaze on flaunting show
 Of painted things, in formal row,
 The coldest, barest ;
 While thou, low-veiled, and nodding low,
 Wert blushing rarest.

And God, who planted thee, was wise,
 I' the shade—no vulgar-vended prize
 For men, whose love is in their eyes,
 And goes no deeper :
 Better for thee, and such as thou art,
 To be the forest-nun thou now art,
 Than yoked to some loose-dangling mate
 Whom thou canst neither love nor hate,
 Thy body's keeper,
 But to thy sweet soul's estimate
 Blind, or a sleeper.

Me may the God who sways the heart
 Wean more from each false flaring art,
 And still some modest truth impart
 Through thy revealing !
 As, yearly, sooty crowds eschewing,
 The fragrant first May-breezes wooing,
 My footed pilgrimage I make
 Through wood and wold, and passive take
 Each vagrant feeling,
 Which thou, and such as thou, can wake
 With balmy healing.

MAY SONG

ON Ettrick bank the primrose grows
 Where the stream is winding clearly O !
 Though the ash be grey, the birch is green,
 And the birds are chanting cheerily O !
 Thou weary heart, why nurse the smart
 Of a fruitless grief so drearily ?
 What should thee stay, to greet the May,
 Like a bird on the wing, so cheerily ?
 Cuckoo, cuckoo, far in the wood !
 Sweet mavis on gowany lea !
 O show me the trick of thy blithe May mood,
 And teach me to sing with thee !

Blow, softly, softly breezes blow !
 For the wound is rankling greenly yet ;
 And for him who is gone, whom I fear to name,
 The smart doth cut me keenly yet !
 I laid him low, when in March the snow
 O'er the sod was drifting drearily,
 And how shall I sing, like a bird on the wing,
 When the bright May sun shines cheerily ?
 Cuckoo, cuckoo, far in the wood !
 Sweet mavis on gowany lea !
 I love the sweet trick of thy blythe May
 mood,
 But grief still dwells with me !

LOVE'S LULLABY

YE waters, wildly pouring,
With hollow murmurs roaring,
Plunging o'er the rocky steep
With a furious foamy sweep,
In the cavern'd caldron boiling,
Turning, tumbling, twisting, toiling,
Sounding from the glen's dark throat
Old hymns of deep and drowsy note ;

Ye waters, hollow-roaring,
Lull ye, lull my love asleep !

Ye forests, dark-surrounding,
With hollow whispers sounding,
Breath that stirs the horrid woods,
Voice of vasty solitudes,
Like the sea, with murmurs swelling,
Solemn, sacred, awe-compelling,
Speaking to the pious ear
Like God's guardian presence near ;

Ye forests, hollow-sounding,
Lull ye, lull my love asleep !

POOR CROW

As I came through the garden ground,
I met a little crow,
With short-clipt wing, in narrow bound,
Hobbling, hobbling low.

Who clipt thy wing, thou little crow?

I wish that wight may die!

'Tis seemly when worms creeping go,

But birds were made to fly,

Poor Crow!

Who's like to thee?—A bard, whose thought

Once spanned the welkin wide,

But now he drags a heavy boat,

Against life's muddy tide.

Who's like to thee?—A king high-thron'd,

Who ruled from sea to sea,

But homeless now, an outcast thing,

He creeps o'er Earth like thee,

Poor Crow!

Then take my pity for thy plight,

Thou poor misfortuned thing,

And love me, while I hate the wight

Who clipt thy venturous wing.

So long thou hoppest on my rood,

Thou hast a friend in me,

And while I feed on mortal food,

I'll keep a crumb for thee,

Poor Crow!

SONG OF THE WINDS

Blow ! blow ! blow !
By the eagles' rocky dwelling,
From Fairfield to Helvellyn,
Blow ! blow !
O'er the tempest's leafless track,
From Helvellyn to Saddleback,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
Where the thunder loud is pealing,
Round the shepherd's lonely shieling,
Blow ! blow !
Where the torrent wildly dashing,
With white flail the rock is lashing,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
O'er the grey and rocky ruin,
Where black cloud is cloud pursuing,
Blow ! blow !
Like demons, with sharp yell,
When they hunt a soul to hell,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
Where the traveller on the hill
Wanders blindly without skill,
Blow ! blow !

Whom suddenly a blast
Down the sheer black wall shall cast,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
Where the sapless leaves are whirling,
Where the ruddy floods are swirling,
Blow ! blow !
Where the farmer's yellow store,
Floats to sea with rush and roar,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
Where the drowning man is calling,
Through the storm's relentless brawling,
Blow ! blow !
Where with planks and drifted dead
Wide the wreathèd sands are spread,
Blow ! blow !

Blow ! blow ! blow !
With mist, and rain, and rack,
From Scawfell to Saddleback,
Blow ! blow !
Who shall check you in the hour,
When God arms your wings with power ?
Blow ! blow !

SAM'EL SUMPH

Air—‘Ha, ha, the wooing o’t !’

SAM'EL SUMPH here cam' for Greek,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o’t !
 Frae Dunnet Head he cam' for Greek,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o’t !
 Brains he had na unco much,
 His schooling was a crazy crutch,
 But like the crab he had a clutch,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o’t !*

Latin Syntax vexed him sore,
 When he tried the Greeking o’t,
 For Cæsar stands at Homer’s door
 When folks try the Greeking o’t.
Quod and *ut* he understood,
 At ‘speech direct’ they called him good,
 But *qui* with the subjunctive mood
 Was the crook in the lot at the Greeking o’t !

One thing truth commands to tell,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o’t !
 English he could hardly spell,
 But what’s that to the Greeking o’t ?
 English fits the vulgar clan,
 The buying and the selling man,
 But for the learn’d the only plan
 Is a close grip at the Greeking o’t.

How he wandered through the verb,
 It pains my tongue the speaking o't,
 He said it was a bitter herb,
 When he tried the Greeking o't.
 Wi' mony a wrench and mony a screw,
 At last he warstled bravely through,
 All except a tense or two,
 When he tried the Greeking o't !

How he fared with η and α !
 When he tried the Greeking o't.
 $\Delta\eta$ and $\gamma\epsilon$, and all their clan,
 It's weel worth the speaking o't.
 These feckless dots of words, quo' he,
 They are nae bigger than a flea,
 We'll skip them ow'r and let them be,
 They'll nae be missed at the Greeking o't !

A' the story for to tell,
 Were nae end to the speaking o't,
 But this thing in the end befell,
 When he tried the Greeking o't ;
 Though his heart was free frae vice
 (Men are sometimes trapped like mice),
 They plucked him ance, they plucked him twice
 When he tried the Greeking o't !

Sair cast doun was learned Sam
 At this end of the Greeking o't ;
 He could dae nae mair wi' cram
 At this stage o' the Greeking o't.

But he was teugh as ony Scot,
 He was plucked, but yield would not,
 Sooner would he hang and rot,
 Than thus be balked at the Greeking o't.

At the door he made a din,
 Rap, rap, for the Greeking o't !
 Is the Greek Professor in ?
 Yes, yes, for the Greeking o't !
 Sam his plea wi' tears would win,
 He fleeced and grat his een quite blin',
 To pluck him twice was just a sin,
 For a sma' fault at the Greeking o't !

Professor was a kindly man,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o't !
 Felt for a' the student clan
 That swat sair at the Greeking o't,
 'Though you're nae just in the van,
 My heart is wae your worth to ban,
 Ye hae done the best ye can,
 So ye may pass at the Greeking o't.'

Sam'el Sumph is now M.A.,
 Ha, ha, for the Greeking o't !
 He can preach and he can pray,
 That's the fruit of the Greeking o't.
 He can thunder loud and fell,
 An awfu' power in him doth dwell,
 To ope and shut the gates of hell,
 That's the prize o' the Greeking o't.

Wait a year and ye will see,
 Ha, ha, the Greeking o't !
High upon the tap o' the tree,
 Sam perch'd by the Greeking o't !
In the Kirk Assembly he
Sits as big as big can be,
Moderator Sam, D.D.,
That's the crown o' the Greeking o't !

A PSALM OF BEN MORE

How beautiful upon the mountains, Lord,
Is Earth, thy world, how beautiful and grand !
Ofttimes with firm unwearied foot I clomb
The old grey Ben, whose peak serene look'd down
In glory on the light careering clouds
That swept the nearer heights ; but never fill'd
My wondering eye such pomp of various view
As now, from thy storm-shatter'd brow, Ben More.
How fearful from this high sharp-riven rim
To look down thy precipitous forehead seam'd
With scars from countless storms, whence to the plain
In long grim lines the livid ruin falls,
And think how with a touch the involving blast
From the rude North might seize such thing as I,
And whirl me into dust in that black glen,
Sown with destruction ! But such danger now
Touches not me, when in her gentle mood
Nature, all robed in light, and shod with peace,
Upon the old foundations of her strength
Sits like a queen. How glorious in the West

The sheen of ocean lies, the boundless breadth
Of gleaming waves that girdle in the globe
With their untainted virtue, strangely cut
By rocky terraces projecting far
In measured tiers, and long-drawn sprawling arms
Of huge-slabbed granite huddled into knobs,
And studded, far as the rapt eye can reach,
With isle and islet sown in sportive strength,
Even as the sky with stars—the sandy Coll,
Tiree-tway-parted, and the nearer group
Of Ulva, Gometra, and Lunga's isle,
And the flat Pladda, and the steep Cairnburg,
Where erst the Norseman, monarch of the main,
His sea-girt castle kept ; and stout Maclean
Cromwell's harsh might defied, and planted proud
The flag of Charles, and on the ill-starred clans
Brought loss and harm, and crown'd authority's
Retributive mace. But chiefly, thy dark mass
Enchains my view, in pillared beauty rare,
World-famous Staffa, by the dædal hand
Of Titan Nature piled in rhythmic state,
A fane for gods, and with the memory wreathed
Of Fingal, and the ancient hero-kings
Whom Ossian sang to the wild ringing notes
Of his old Celtic harp, when Celtic songs
Were mighty in the land, and stirred the soul
Of generous clanship in the men who strode
Their native hills with pride, a prosperous race,
Now few and poor by Saxon lords controlled,
Shorn of their glens, and dwindling fast away
Into a name. Nor less thy old grey line,
Iona, holds my gaze, where late I trod

The grave of kings, and by the figured cross
Stood reverent, raised by grateful piety
To the adventurous Saint, who launched his bark
From Erin's clerkly shore, nor looked behind,
Till he had made that harsh grey rock a school
For gentleness and tenderness and truth,
And Gospel charms to tame mistempered souls
Through all the savage North. Hence veering round
Southward, Cantire's long arm, and Islay's heights
And lofty Jura's towering tops stand out
Majestic, and the quaint green-vested knolls
Of sheep-cropped Lorn, and Oban's quiet bay
Beloved of boats. And with more distant sweep
Eastward the strong sky-cleaving Grampians rise
From Arroquhar's heights to Cruachan's shapely peaks
And Buchaill's fair green cone, and thy huge bulk
Broad-breasted Nevis, and the mighty host
Of granite battlements that look sternly out
On savage Skye, and with her stiffly bear
The cuffs and buffets of the strong-armed blast
From the still-vexed Atlantic, mother of rains.
These be thy ramparts, Scotland, these the fence
Which Nature raised, to keep thy children free
From the invading Roman, and the pride
Of power aggressive. O ! how lovely sleeps
The sun upon each soft green-mantled glen,
By those grim bulwarks shielded, where the smoke
From lonely hut in odorous birchen bower
Signs the abode of men, the healthful home
Whence breezy Scotland sends her hardy sons
Far-venturing o'er the globe, to win much gold,
And fair approval, and high-throned command,

And all that Earth, a willing tribute, yields
To patient thought, strong will, prompt hand, and
grasp

Tenacious. Nor the fervid spirit here
Fails, that beneath a cool impassive front
Nurses the sacred flame, which bursts with power
From Caledonian pulpits, strong to wake
The sting of conscience in lethargic souls
Long drugged to drowsy dulness, or enthralled
By base convention.

But I feel the keen
Uncustomed temper of the thin clear air
On this dry peak, where no hot streams are bred,
Creep with a gradual chillness through my frame ;
And I must leave thy tale, thou mighty Ben,
Half sung : nor mine, in sooth, the learned skill
To chronicle the story of thy birth
Portentous, then when God's high call redeemed
The elements from chaos, and made Earth
Start from the seas, and bade the mountains rise
With giant fronts star-threatening, and deep glens
Sundered from glens, and mighty plains from plains
Remotely cast, abode with skill prepared
By toilsome Nature's patient alchemy
For man, proud flower and fruitage of her growth.
These grey-blue rocks in shattered fragments strewn
Upon thy aged crown, if they could speak,
Would tell a tale that science tempts in vain
With many a lofty guess, and name the hour
When the same chemic fire that smelts the bowels
Of hot Vesuvius, 'neath her rocky ribs
Mother of fertile ashes, heaved thy cones

From the tremendous depths of boiling seas
With subterranean thunders terrible,
And tremulous quakings of the tortured Earth
In her primeval throes ; and say what tribes
Of monsters then first crawled in slimy beds
Unshapely, or with hideous flapping vans
Clove the thick air, and glared with great round eyes
Through the gross mists, that from the labouring
Earth

Rose feverous. Thus stirred by Titan force
Sprang proud Ben More to being, what long space
Of centuried ages, ere sire Adam first
Greeted with glad surprise the genial day
I know not, nor much reck. Enough that here,
Last product of the slow-creating years,
Victors we stand, upon so vast a stage
Where human work well linked to work divine
Creates new wonders daily ; I'm content.
Let others probe the immense of Possibles
With proud conjectures, stamping with the seal
Of sacred truth each darling notion bred
Of green conceit, and plumed with windy pride ;
Such fair fantastic triumphs I forego,
Sober to seek, and diligent to do
My human work in this my human plot
Of God's vast garden, all my joy to pluck
The noisome weeds, and rear the fragrant rose,
Not quarrelling with its thorn.—Now fare thee well
Thou far-viewed Ben ! and may the memoried pomp
Of thy great grandeur make my smallness great,
That in the strait and choking times of life
I still may wear thy presence in my soul,

168 POEMS OF JOHN STUART BLACKIE

And walk as in a kingly hall, hung round
With living pictures from the proud Ben More
Monarch of Mull, the fairest isle that spreads
Its green folds to the Sun in Celtic seas.

SONNETS

BEN MUICDUIBHE

O'ER broad Muicduibhe sweeps the keen cold blast,
Far whirrs the snow-bred, white-winged ptarmigan,
Sheer sink the cliffs to dark Loch Etagan,
And all the hill with shattered rock lies waste.
Here brew ship-foundering storms their force divine,
Here gush the fountains of wild-flooding rivers ;
Here the strong thunder frames the bolt that
shivers
The giant strength of the old twisted pine.
Yet, even here, on the bare waterless brow
Of granite ruin, I found a purple flower,
A delicate flower, as fair as aught, I trow,
That toys with zephyrs in my lady's bower.
So Nature blends her powers ; and he is wise
Who to his strength no gentlest grace denies.

LOCH RANNOCH MOOR

IN the lone glen the silver lake doth sleep ;
Sleeps the white cloud upon the sheer black hill :
All moorland sounds a solemn silence keep ;
I only hear the tiny trickling rill
'Neath the red moss. Athwart the dim grey pall
That veils the day, a dusky fowl may fly ;
But, on this bleak brown moor, if thou shalt call
For men, a spirit will sooner make reply.
Come hither, thou whose agile tongue doth flit
From theme to theme with change of wordy war ;
Converse with men makes sharp the glittering wit,
But Wisdom whispers truth, when crowds are far.
Come, sit thee down upon this old grey stone ;
Men learn to think, and feel, and pray, alone.

THE LORD'S DAY IN IONA

PURE worshipper, who on this holy day
Wouldst shake thee free from soul-encrusting cares,
And to the great Creator homage pay
In some high fane most worthy of thy prayers,
Go not where sculptured tower or pictured dome
Invites the reeking city's jaded throngs,
Some hoar old shrine of Rhine-land or of Rome,
Where the dim aisle the languid hymn prolongs ;
Here rather follow me, and take thy stand
By the grey cairn that crowns the lone Dun Ee,

And let thy breezy worship be the grand
 Old Bens, and old grey knolls that compass thee,
 The sky-blue waters, and the snow-white sand,
 And the quaint isles far-sown upon the sea.

THE BUCHAILL ETIVE

(Argyleshire)

THOU lofty shepherd of dark Etive glen,
 Tall Titan warder of the grim Glencoe,
 I climb thy starward peak not long ago,
 And call thee mine, and love thee much since then.
 Oft have I marvelled, if mine eye had been
 Strange witness to Creation's natal hour,
 How wondrous then had showed the flaming scene
 When out of seething depths thy cone with power
 Was shot from God. But now upon thy steep
 Fair greenness sleeps on old secure foundations,
 And on thee browse the innocent-bleating sheep
 And timorous troops of the high-antlered nations ;
 And I am here, Time's latest product, Man,
 To work Thy will, O Lord, and serve Thy stately plan.

MOONLIGHT AT KING'S HOUSE

(Argyleshire)

O FOR the touch that smote the psalmist's lyre,
 When the great beauty of the world he saw,
 And sang His praise, instinct with holy awe,
 Who rides the whirlwind, and who reins the fire !

But not alone proud Lebanon's fulgent face
Hath power the eye of trancèd seer to draw ;
Here, too, in Grampian land God rules by law,
Which clothes the awfullest forms in loveliest grace.
The placid moon, the huge sky-cleaving Ben,
The moor loch glancing in the argent ray,
The long white mist low-trailing up the glen,
The hum of mighty waters far away,
All make me wish that worthy words would come ;
But all I find is—worship, and be dumb !

CHINESE GORDON

SOME men live near to God, as my right arm
Is near to me ; and thus they walk about
Mailed in full proof of faith, and bear a charm
That mocks at fear, and bars the door on doubt,
And dares the impossible. So, Gordon, thou,
Through the hot stir of this distracted time,
Dost hold thy course, a flaming witness how,
To do and dare, and make our lives sublime
As God's campaigners. What live we for but this,
Into the sour to breathe the soul of sweetness,
The stunted growth to rear to fair completeness,
Drown sneers in smiles, kill hatred with a kiss,
And to the sandy waste bequeath the fame
That the grass grew behind us where we came !

SYDNEY DOBELL

(On hearing of his death)

AND thou too gone ! One more bright soul away
To swell the mighty sleepers 'neath the sod.
One less to honour and to love, and say,
Who lives with thee doth live half-way to God.
My chaste-souled Sydney ! Thou wert carved too fine
For coarse observance of the general eye :
But who might look into thy soul's fair shrine
Saw bright gods there, and felt their presence nigh.
Oh, if we owe warm thanks to Heaven, 'tis when
In the slow progress of the struggling years
Our touch is blessed to feel the pulse of men
Who walk in love and light above their peers
White-robed, and forward point with guiding hand,
Breathing a heaven around them where they stand.

BALLADS, LEGENDS AND NARRATIVE POEMS

THE LAY OF THE BRAVE CAMERON

At Quatre Bras, when the fight ran high,
Stout Cameron stood with wakeful eye,
Eager to leap, as a mettlesome hound,
Into the fray with a plunge and a bound,
But Wellington, lord of the cool command,
Held the reins with a steady hand,
Saying, 'Cameron, wait, you'll soon have enough,
Giving the Frenchman a taste of your stuff,
When the Cameron men are wanted.'

Now hotter and hotter the battle grew,
With tramp, and rattle, and wild halloo,
And the Frenchmen poured, like a fiery flood,
Right on the ditch where Cameron stood.
Then Wellington flashed from his steadfast stance
On his captain brave a lightning glance,
Saying, 'Cameron, now have at them, boy,
Take care of the road to Charleroi,
Where the Cameron men are wanted !'

Brave Cameron shot like a shaft from a bow
 Into the midst of the plunging foe,
 And with him the lads whom he loved, like a torrent
 Sweeping the rocks in its foamy current ;
 And he fell the first in the fervid fray,
 Where a deathful shot had shore its way,
 But his men pushed on where the work was rough,
 Giving the Frenchman a taste of their stuff,
 Where the Cameron men were wanted.

Brave Cameron then, from the battle's roar,
 His foster-brother stoutly bore,
 His foster-brother, with service true,
 Back to the village of Waterloo.
 And they laid him on the soft green sod,
 And he breathed his spirit there to God,
 But not till he heard the loud hurrah
 Of victory billowed from Quatre Bras,
 Where the Cameron men were wanted.

By the road to Ghent they buried him then,
 This noble chief of the Cameron men,
 And not an eye was tearless seen
 That day beside the alley green :
 Wellington wept, the iron man ;
 And from every man in the Cameron clan
 The big round drop in bitterness fell,
 As with the pipes he loved so well
 His funeral wail they chanted.

And now he sleeps (for they bore him home,
 When the war was done, across the foam)

Beneath the shadow of Nevis Ben,
With his sires, the pride of the Cameron men.
Three thousand Highlandmen stood round,
As they laid him to rest in his native ground,
The Cameron brave, whose eye never quailed,
Whose heart never sank, and whose hand never failed,
Where a Cameron man was wanted.

THE VOYAGE OF COLUMBA

‘Son of Brendan, I have willed it
I will leave this land and go
To a land of savage mountains,
Where the Borean breezes blow ;
To a land of rainy torrents,
And of barren, treeless isles,
Where the winter frowns are lavish,
And the summer scantily smiles ;
I will leave this land of bloodshed,
Where fierce brawls and battles sway,
And will preach God’s peaceful Gospel
In a grey land, far away.’
Beathan spake, the son of Brendan—
‘Son of Phelim art thou wise ?
Wilt thou change the smiling Erin,
For the scowling Pictish skies ?
Thou, the lealest son of Erin,
Thou, a prince of royal line,
Sprung by right descent from mighty
Neill, whose hostages were nine ?

Wilt thou seek the glens of Albyn
 For repose from loveless strife ?
 Glens, where feuds, from sire to grandson,
 Fan the wasteful flame of life ?
 Wilt thou leave a land of learning,
 Home of ancient holy lore,
 To converse with uncouth people,
 Fishing on a shelly shore ?
 Wilt thou leave the homes of Gartan,
 Where thou suck'd the milky food
 From the mother-breast of Aithne,
 Daughter of Lagenian blood ?
 Wilt thou leave the oaks of Derry,
 Where each leaf is dear to thee,
 Wandering, in a storm-tost wherry,
 O'er the wide, unpastured sea ?
 Son of Phelim, Beathan loves thee,
 Be thou zealous, but be wise !
 There be heathens here in Erin ;
 Preach to them 'neath kindly skies.'
 Then the noble son of Phelim,
 With the big tear in his eye,
 To the blameless son of Brendan
 Firmly thus made swift reply—
 'Son of Brendan, I have heard thee,
 Heard thee with a bleeding heart ;
 For I love the oaks of Derry,
 And to leave them gives me smart ;
 But the ban of God is on me,
 Not my will commands the way ;
 Molaise priest of Innishmurry
 Hights me go, and I obey.

For their death is heavy on me
Whom I slew in vengeful mood,
At the battle of Culdremhne,
In the hotness of my blood.
For the lord that rules at Tara,
In some brawl that grew from wine,
Slew young Carnan, branch of promise,
And a kinsman of my line ;
And the human blood within me
Mounted, and my hand did slay,
For the fault of one offender,
Many on that tearful day ;
And I soil'd the snow-white vestment
With which Etchen, holy man,
Clonfad's mitred elder, clad me
When I join'd the priestly clan ;
And my soul was rent with anguish
And my sorrows were increased,
And I went to Innishmurry,
Seeking solace from the priest.
And the saintly Molaise told me—
“ For the blood that thou hast spilt,
God hath shown me one atonement
To make clear thy soul from guilt ;
Count the hundreds of the Christians
Whom thy sword slew to thy blame,
Even so many souls of heathens
Must thy word with power reclaim ;
Souls of rough and rude sea-rovers,
Used to evil, strange to good,
Picts beyond the ridge of Albyn,
In the Pagan realm of Brude.”

Thou hast heard me, son of Brendan ;
 I have will'd it ; and this know,
 Thou with me, or I without thee,
 On this holy hest will go ! '

Beathan heard, with meek agreement,
 For he knew that Colum's will,
 Like a rock against the ocean,
 Still was fixed for good or ill.

'Son of Phelim, I have heard thee ;
 I and Cobhtach both will go,
 Past the wintry ridge of Albyn,
 O'er the great sea's foamy flow ;
 Far from the green oaks of Derry,
 Where the cukoo sings in May,
 From the land of falling waters
 Far, and clover's green display ;
 Where Columba leads we follow,
 Fear with him I may not know,
 Where the God thou servest calls thee,
 Son of Phelim, I will go.'

II

'Son of Brendan, I am ready :
 Is the boat all staunch and trim ?
 Light our osier craft and steady,
 Like an ocean gull to swim ?
 I have cast all doubt behind me,
 Seal'd with prayer my holy vow,
 And the God who heard me answers
 With assuring presence now.'
 And the son of Brendan answer'd—
 'Son of Phelim, thou shalt be

Like God's angel-guidance to us
As we plough the misty sea.
We are ready, I and Cobhtach,
Diarmid in thy service true,
Rus and Fechno, sons of Rodain,
Scandal, son of Bresail, too ;
Ernan, Luguid Mocatheimne,
Echoid, and Tochannu brave,
Grillan and the son of Branduh,
Brush with thee the briny wave.'

Thus spake he. Columba lifted
High his hand to bless the wherry,
And they oar'd with gentle oarage
From the dear-loved oaks of Derry ;
Loath to leave each grassy headland,
Shiny beach and pebbly bay,
Thymy slope and woody covert,
Where the cuckoo hymn'd the May ;
Loath from some familiar cabin's
Wreathy smoke to rend their eye,
Where a godly widow harbour'd
Laughing girl or roguish boy.
On they oar'd, and soon behind them
Left thy narrow pool, Loch Foyle,
And the grey sea spread before them
Many a broad unmeasured mile.
Swiftly now on bounding billow
On they run before the gale,
For a strong south-wester blowing
Strained the bosom of their sail.
On they dash : the Rhinns of Islay
Soon they reach, and soon they pass ;

Cliff and bay, and bluffy foreland,
Flit as in a magic glass.
What is this before them rising
Northward from the foamy spray ?
Land, I wis—an island lorded
By the wise Macneil to-day,
Then a brown and barren country,
Cinctured by the ocean grey.*
On they scud ; and there they landed,
And they mounted on a hill,
Whence the far-viewd son of Brendan
Look'd, and saw green Erin still.
' Say'st thou so, thou son of Brendan ? '
Quoth Columba ; ' then not here
May we rest from tossing billow
With light heart and conscience clear,
Lest our eyes should pine a-hunger
For the land we hold so dear,
And our coward keel returning
Stint the vow that brought us here.'
So they rose and trimmed their wherry,
And their course right on they hold
Northward, where the wind from Greenland
Blows on Albyn clear and cold ;
When, behold, a cloud came darkling
From the west, with gusty blore,
And the horrent waves rose booming
Eastward, with ill-omened roar ;

* The Island of Colonsay, south of Mull, from which the late Lord Colonsay took his title. The verses were written before his death.

And the night came down upon them,
And the sea with yeasty sweep
Hiss'd around them, as the wherry
Stagger'd through the fretted deep.
Eastward, eastward, back they hurried,
For to face the flood was vain,
Every rib of their light wherry
Creaking to the tempest's strain ;
Eastward, eastward, till the morning
Glimmer'd through the pitchy storm,
And reveal'd the frowning Scarba,
And huge Jura's cones enorm.
'Blessed God,' cried now Columba,
'Here, indeed, may danger be
From the mighty whirl and bubble
Of the cauldron of the sea ;
Here it was that noble Breacan
Perish'd in the gulping wave—
Here we, too, shall surely perish,
If not God be quick to save !'
Spake : and with his hand he lifted
High the cross above the brine ;
And he cried, 'Now, God, I thank Thee
Thou hast sent the wished-for sign !
For, behold, thou son of Brendan,
There upon the topmost wave,
Sent from God, a sign to save us,
Float the bones of Breacan brave !
And his soul this self-same moment,
From the girth of purging fire,
Leaps redeem'd, as we are 'scaping
From the huge sea-cauldron dire.'

Spake : and to the name of Breacan
 Droop'd the fretful-crested spray ;
 And full soon a mild south-easter
 Blew the surly storm away.*

III

Little now remains to tell ye,
 Gentles, of great Phelim's son ;
 How he clave the yielding billow
 Till Iona's strand he won.
 Back they steer'd, still westward, westward ;
 Past the land where high Ben More
 Nods above the isles that quaintly
 Fringe its steep and terraced shore.
 On they cut—still westward ! westward !
 On with favouring wind and tide,
 Past the pillar'd crags of Carsaig
 Fencing Mull's sun-fronting side,
 Pass the narrow Ross, far-stretching
 Where the rough and ruddy rocks
 Rudely rise in jumbled hummocks,
 Of primeval granite blocks ;
 Till they come to where Iona
 Rears her front of hoary crags,
 Fenced by many a stack and skerry
 Full of rifts, and full of jags ;

The legend about the bones of Breacan is of course taken from the old Latin book, otherwise it had no title to be here. In Gaelic, the first element of the compound word *corryvreckan* means a *cauldron*, and the other element *breac* means *spotted* : so that etymologically the name seems only to mean the whirl or cauldron of the sea spotted with foam.

And behind a small black islet
Through an inlet's narrow space,
Sail'd into a bay white bosom'd,
In the island's southward face.
Then with eager step they mounted
To the high rock's beetling brow—
'Canst thou see, thou far-view'd Beathan,
Trace of lovely Erin now ?'
'No ! thou son of Phelim, only
Mighty Jura's Paps I see,
These and Isla's Rhynns, but Erin
Southward lies in mist from me.'
'Thank thee, God !' then cried Columba ;
'Here our vows are paid, and here
We may rest from tossing billow,
With light heart and conscience clear.'
Downward then their way they wended
To the pure and pebbly bay,
And with holy cross uplifted,
Thus did saintly Colum say—
'In the sand we now will bury
This trim craft that brought us here,
Lest we think on oaks of Derry,
And the land we hold so dear ;'
Then they dug a trench and sank it
In the sand, to seal their vow,
With keel upwards, as who travels
In the sand may see it now.

THE DEATH OF COLUMBA

SAXON stranger, thou did'st wisely,
Sunder'd for a little space
From that motley stream of people
Drifting by this holy place ;
With the furnace and the funnel
Through the long sea's glancing arm,
Let them hurry back to Oban,
Where the tourist loves to swarm.
Here, upon this hump of granite,
Sit with me a quiet while,
And I'll tell thee how Columba
Died upon this old grey isle.

I

'Twas in May, a breezy morning,
When the sky was fresh and bright,
And the broad blue ocean shimmer'd
With a thousand gems of light.
On the green and grassy Machar,
Where the fields are spredden wide,
And the crags in quaint confusion
Jut into the Western tide :
Here his troop of godly people,
In stout labour's garb array'd,
Blithe their fruitful task were plying
With the hoe and with the spade.
'I will go and bless my people,'
Quoth the father, 'ere I die,

But the strength is slow to follow
Where the wish is swift to fly ;
I am old and feeble, Diarmid,
Yoke the oxen, be not slow,
I will go and bless my people,
Ere from earth my spirit go.'

On his ox-drawn wain he mounted,
Faithful Diarmid by his side ;
Soon they reach'd the grassy Machar,
Soft and smooth, Iona's pride :
'I am come to bless my people,
Faithful fraters, ere I die ;
I had wish'd to die at Easter,
But I would not mar your joy,
Now the Master plainly calls me,
Gladly I obey His call ;
I am ripe, I feel the sickle,
Take my blessing, ere I fall.'

But they heard his words with weeping,
And their tears fell on the dew,
And their eyes were dimmed with sorrow,
For they knew his words were true.
Then he stood up on the waggon,
And his prayerful hands he hove,
And he spake and bless'd the people
With the blessing of his love :
'God be with you, faithful fraters,
With you now, and evermore ;
Keep you from the touch of evil,
On your souls His Spirit pour ;
God be with you, fellow workmen,
And from loved Iona's shore

Keep the blighting breath of demons,
Keep the viper's venom'd store !'
Thus he spake, and turn'd the oxen
Townwards ; sad they went, and slow,
And the people, fix'd in sorrow,
Stood, and saw the father go.

II

List me further, Saxon stranger,
Note it nicely, by the causeway
On the left hand, where thou came
With the motley tourist people,
Stands a cross of figured fame.
Even now thine eye may see it,
Near the nunnery, slim and grey ;—
From the waggon there Columba
Lighted on that tearful day,
And he sat beneath the shadow
Of that cross, upon a stone,
Brooding on his speedy passage
To the land where grief is none ;
When, behold, the mare, the white one
That was wont the milk to bear
From the dairy to the cloister,
Stood before him meekly there,
Stood, and softly came up to him,
And with move of gentlest grace
O'er the shoulder of Columba
Thrust her piteous-pleading face,
Look'd upon him as a friend looks
On a friend that goes away,

Sunder'd from the land that loves him
By wide seas of briny spray :
'Fie upon thee for thy manners !'
Diarmid cried with lifted rod,
'Wilt thou with untimely fondness
Vex the prayerful man of God ?'
'Not so, Diarmid,' cried Columba ;
'Dost thou see the speechful eyne
Of the fond and faithful creature
Sorrow'd with the swelling brine ?
God hath taught the mute unreasoning
What thou fail'st to understand,
That this day I pass for ever
From Iona's shelly strand.
Have my blessing, gentle creature,
God doth bless both man and beast ;
From hard yoke, when I shall leave thee,
Be thy faithful neck released.'
Thus he spoke, and quickly rising
With what feeble strength remain'd,
Leaning on stout Diarmid's shoulder,
A green hillock's top he gained.
'There, or here where we are sitting,
Whence his eye might measure well
Both the cloister and the chapel,
And his pure and prayerful cell.
There he stood, and high uplifting
Hands whence flowed a healing grace,
Breathed his latest voice of blessing
To protect the sacred place,—
Spake such words as prophets utter
When the veil of flesh is rent,

And the present fades from vision,
 On the germinating future bent :
 ' God thee bless, thou loved Iona,
 Though thou art a little spot,
 Though thy rocks are grey and treeless,
 Thine shalt be a boastful lot ;
 Thou shalt be a sign for nations ;
 Nurtured on thy sacred breast,
 Thou shalt send on holy mission
 Men to teach both East and West ;
 Peers and potentates shall own thee,
 Monarchs of wide-sceptre'd sway
 Dying shall beseech the honour
 To be tomb'd beneath thy clay ;
 God's dear saints shall love to name thee,
 And from many a storied land
 Men of clerkly fame shall pilgrim
 To Iona's little strand.'

III

Thus the old man spake his blessing ;
 Then, where most he loved to dwell,
 Through the well-known porch he enter'd
 To his pure and prayerful cell ;
 And then took the holy psalter—
 ' Twas his wont when he would pray—
 Bound with three stout clasps of silver,
 From the casket where it lay ;
 There he read with fixed devoutness,
 And with craft full fair and fine,
 On the smooth and polish'd vellum
 Copied forth the sacred line,

Till he came to where the kingly
 Singer sings in faithful mood,
 How the younglings of the lion
 Oft may roam in vain for food,
 But who fear the Lord shall never
 Live and lack their proper good.*
 Here he stopped, and said, 'My latest
 Now is written ; what remains
 I bequeath to faithful Beathan
 To complete with pious pains.'
 Then he rose, and in the chapel
 Conned the pious vesper song
 Only to himself, for feeble
 Now the voice that once was strong ;
 Hence with silent step returning
 To his pure and prayerful cell,
 On the round smooth stone he laid him
 Which for pallet served him well.
 Here some while he lay ; then rising,
 To a trusty brother said :
 ' Brother, take my parting message,
 Be my last words wisely weigh'd
 'Tis an age of brawl and battle ;
 Men who seek not God to please,
 With wild sweep of lawless passion
 Waste the land and scourge the seas.
 Not like them be ye ; be loving,
 Peaceful, patient, truthful, bold,
 But in service of your Master
 Use no steel and seek no gold.'

* Psalm xxxiv. 10.

Thus he spake ; but now there sounded
Through the night the holy bell
That to Lord's Day matins gather'd
Every monk from every cell.
Eager at the sound, Columba
In the way foresped the rest,
And before the altar kneeling,
Pray'd with hands on holy breast.
Diarmid followed ; but a marvel
Flow'd upon his wondering eyne,—
All the windows shone with glorious
Light of angels in the shrine.
Diarmid enter'd ; all was darkness.
‘Father !’ But no answer came.
‘Father ! art thou here, Columba ?’
Nothing answer'd to the name.
Soon the troop of monks came hurrying,
Each man with a wandering light,
For great fear had come upon them,
And a sense of strange affright.
‘Diarmid ! Diarmid, is the father
With thee ? Art thou here alone ?’
And they turn'd their lights and found him
On the pavement lying prone.
And with gentle hands they raised him,
And he mildly look'd around,
And he raised his arm to bless them,
But it dropped upon the ground ;
And his breathless body rested
On the arms that held him dear,
And his dead face look'd upon them
With a light serene and clear ;

And they said that holy angels
 Surely hover'd round his head,
 For alive no loveliest ever
 Look'd so lovely as this dead.

Stranger, thou hast heard my story,
 Thank thee for thy patient ear ;
 We are pleased to stir the sleeping
 Memory of old greatness here.
 I have used no gloss, no varnish,
 To make fair things fairer look ;
 As the record stands, I give it,
 In the old monk's Latin book.
 Keep it in thy heart, and love it,
 Where a good thing loves to dwell ;
 It may help thee in thy dying,
 If thou care to use it well.

GLENCOE

A HISTORICAL BALLAD

I

THE snow is white on the Pap of Glencoe,
 And all is bleak and dreary,
 But gladness reigns in the vale below,
 Where life is blithe and cheery,
 Where the old Macdonald, stout and true,
 Sits in the hall which his fathers knew,
 Sits, with the sword which his fathers drew
 On the old wall glancing clearly,

Where the dry logs blaze on the huge old hearth,
And the old wine flows that fans the mirth
 Of the friends that love him dearly.
Heavily, heavily lies the snow
 On the old grey ash and the old blue pine,
And the cold winds drearily drearily blow
 Down the glen with a moan and a whine ;
But little reck they how the storm may bray,
 Or the linn may roar in the glen,
Where the bright cups flow, and the light jests play,
 And Macdonald is master of men,
Where Macdonald is king of the feast to-night,
And sways the hour with a landlord's right,
And broadens his smile, and opens his breast,
As a host may do to a dear-loved guest ;
And many a stirring tale he told
 Of battle, and war, and chase,
And heroes that sleep beneath the mould,
 The pride of his lordly race ;
And many a headlong venture grim,
 With the hounds that track the deer,
By the rifted chasm's hanging rim
 And the red-scaured mountain sheer.
And many a song did the harper sing
 Of Ossian blind and hoary,
That made the old oak rafter ring
 With the pulse of Celtic story ;
And the piper blew a gamesome reel
 That the young blood hotly stirred,
And they beat the ground with lightsome heel
 Till the midnight bell was heard.
And then to rest they laid them down,

And soon the strong sleep bound them,
While the winds without kept whistling rout,
And the thick snows drifted round them.

II

But one there was whose eyes that night
 No peaceful slumber knew,
Or, if he slept, he dreamt of blood,
 And woke by Coe's far-sounding flood,
 To make his dreaming true.
A Campbell was he, of a hated clan,
 —God's curse be on his name!—
Who to Macdonald's goodly glen
 On traitor's errand came.
He had the old man's niece to wife,
 (A love that should have buried strife,)
And shook his hand for faithful proof,
 And slept beneath his friendly roof;
And he that night had shared the mirth
 Around the old man's friendly hearth,
 And, wise in devil's art,
Had laughed and quaffed, and danced and sung,
 And talked with honey on his tongue,
 And murder in his heart.
And now, to buy a grace from power
 And men the slaves of the venal hour,
Or with the gust of blood to sate
 A heart whose luxury was hate,
 His hand was on the whetted knife
That thirsts to drink the old man's life;
 And soon the blood shall flow,
 From which the curse shall grow,

That since the world to sin began
Pursues the lawless-handed man ;
And false Glen Lyon's traitor name
Shall live, a blazing badge of shame,
While memory links the crimson crime,
The basest in the book of Time,
With Campbell and Glencoe.

III

"Tis five o'clock i' the morn ; of light
 No glimmering ray is seen,
And the snow that drifted through the night
 Shrouds every spot of green.
Not yet the cock hath blown his horn,
 But the base red-coated crew
Creep through the silence of the morn
 With butcher-work to do.
And now to the old man's house they came,
Where he lived in the strength of his proud old
 name
 A brave unguarded life ;
And now they enter the old oak room,
Where he lay, all witless of his doom,
 In the arms of his faithful wife ;
And through the grace of his hoary head,
As he turned him starting from his bed,
They shot the deadly-missioned lead,
 And reaved his purple life ;
Then from the lady, where she lay
With outstretched arms in blank dismay,
They rove the vest, and in deray
 They flung her on the floor ;

And from her quivering fingers tore
With their teeth the rare old rings she wore ;
Then haled her down the oaken stair
Into the cold, unkindly air,
And in the snow they left her there,
 Where not a friend was nigh,
With many a curse, and never a tear,
 Like an outcast beast to die.

IV

And now the butcher-work went on
Hotly, hotly up the glen ;
For the order was given full sharply then
The lion to slay with the cubs in his den,
 And never a male to spare ;
And the king's own hand had signed the ban,
To glut the hate of the Campbell clan,
 And the spite of the Master of Stair.
From every clachan in long Glencoe
The shriek went up, and the blood did flow
Reeking and red on the wreathèd snow.
 Every captain had his station
On the banks of the roaring water,
 Watching o'er the butchered nation
Like the demons of the slaughter.
Lindsay raged at Invercoe,
And laid his breathless twenty low ;
At Inveruggen, Campbell grim
Made the floor with gore to swim—
Nine he counted in a row
Brothered in a bloody show,

And one who oft for him had spread
The pillow 'neath his traitor head,

To woo the kindly rest.

At Auchnachoin stern Barker pressed
The pitiless work with savage zest,
And on the broad mead by the water
Heaped ten souls in huddled slaughter.
The young man blooming in his pride,

The old man with crack'd breath,
The bridegroom severed from his bride,
And son with father side by side,

Lie swathed in one red death ;
And Fire made league with Murder fell,
Where flung by many a raging hand,
From house to house the flaming brand
Contagious flew ; and crackling spar
And crashing beam, make hideous jar,

And pitchy volumes swell.

What horror stalked the glen that day,
What ghastly fear and grim dismay,
No tongue of man may tell ;
What shame to Orange William's sway,
When Murder throve with honours decked,
And every traitor stood erect,
And every true man fell !

v

'Tis twelve o'clock at noon ; and still
Heavily, heavily on the hill
The storm outbreaks his wintry will,
And flouts the blinded sun ;

And now the base red-coated crew,
And the fiends in hell delight to view
 The sanguine slaughter done.
But where be they, the helpless troop,
Spared by red murder's ruthless swoop—
The feeble woman, the maiden mild,
The mother with her sucking child,
And all who fled with timely haste
From hissing shot, and sword uncased ?
Hurrying from the reeking glen,
 They are fled, some here, some there ;
Some have scrambled up the Ben
 And crossed the granite ridges bare,
And found kind word and helping hand
On Appin's green and friendly strand ;
Some in the huts of lone Glenure
Found kindly care and shelter sure,
And some in face of the tempest's roar,
Behind the shelving Buchailmore,
With stumbling foot did onward press
To thy Ben-girdled nook, Dalness ;
And some huge Cruachan's peak behind
Found a broad shield from drift and wind,
And warmed their frozen frames at fires
Kindled by friendly Macintyres,
But most—O Heaven !—a feeble nation,
Crept slowly from the mountain station ;
The old, the sickly, and the frail,
Went blindly on with staggering trail,
The little tender-footed maid,
The little boy that loved to wade
In the clear waters of the Coe,

Ere blood had stained their amber flow—
On them, ere half their way was made,
The night came down, and they were laid
Some on the scaurs of the jagged Bens,
Some in black bogs and stony glens,
Faint and worn, till kindly Death
Numb'd their limbs, and froze their breath,
And wound them in the snow.
And there they lay with none to know,
And none with pious kind concern
To honour with a cross or cairn
The remnant of Glencoe.
And on the hills a curse doth lie
That will not die with years ;
And oft-times 'neath a scowling sky,
Through the black rent, where the torrent grim
Leaps 'neath the huge crag's frowning rim,
The wind comes down with a moan and a sigh ;
And a voice, like the voice of a wail and a cry,
The lonely traveller hears,
A voice, like the voice of Albyn weeping
For the sorrow and the shame
That stained the British soldier's name,
When kingship was in butcher's keeping,
And power was honour's foe ;
Weeping for scutcheons rudely torn,
And worth disowned and glory shorn,
And for the valiant-hearted men
That once were mighty in the glen
Of lonely, bleak Glencoe.

ANCRUM MOOR

A HISTORICAL BALLAD

KING HENRY was a rampant loon,
No Turk more bold than he
To tread the land with iron shoon
And tramp with royal glee.

God made him king of England ; there
His royal lust had scope
Tightly to hold beneath his thumb
People and peer and Pope.

And bishops' craft and lawyers' craft
Were cobwebs light to him,
And law and right were blown like chaff
Before his lordly whim.

And many a head of saint and sage
In ghastly death lay low,
That never a man on English ground
Might say King Henry no.

Now he would swallow Scotland too
To glut his kingly maw,
And sent his ships, two hundred sail,
Bewest North Berwick Law.

And he hath sworn by force to weld
Two kingdoms into one,
When Scotland's Queen with Scotland rights,
Is wed to England's son.

And he hath heaped the quay of Leith
With devastation dire,
And swept fair Embro's stately town
Three days with raging fire.

And he hath hired two red-cross loons,
False Lennox and Glencairn,
From royal Henry's graceléss grace
A traitor's wage to earn.

And he hath said to the warders twain—
Sir Ralph and stout Sir Bryan—
' Ride north, and closely pare the claws
Of that rude Scottish lion.

' And all the land benorth Carlisle
That your good sword secures,
Teviotdale and Lauderdale,
And the Merse with all its moors,
Land of the Douglas, Ker, and Scott,
My seal hath made it yours.'

And they have crossed from Carter Fell,
And laid the fields all bare ;
And they have harried Jeddart town,
And spoiled the abbey there.

* The Border clans who had been induced to side with Henry wore the red cross of St George as a badge to distinguish them from the patriotic party.

And they have ravaged hearth and hall,
 With steel untaught to spare
 Or tottering eld, or screaming babe,
 Or tearful lady fair.

And they have come with snorting speed,
 Plashing through mire and mud,
 And plunged with hot and haughty hoof
 Through Teviot's silver flood.

And past the stronghold of the Ker *
 Like rattling hail they pour,
 Right in the face of Penilheugh,
 And up to Ancrum Moor.

‘Where be these caitiff Scots?’ outcries
 Layton, with hasty fume.
 ‘There!’ cries Sir Eure; ‘the cowards crouch
 Behind the waving broom.

‘Have at them, boys! they may not stand
 Before our strong-hoofed mass;
 Like clouds they come, and like the drift
 Of rainless clouds they pass! ’

‘Not so, Sir Eure! ye do not well
 Thus with light word to scorn
 The Douglas blood, the strong right arm
 Of Bruce at Bannockburn.

* Ancrum House, now the residence of Sir William Scott of Ancrum, but at the date of the ballad possessed by a branch of the noble race of the Kers.

‘ Lo ! where they rise behind the broom
And stand in bristling pride,
Sharp as the jag of a grey sea-crag
That flouts the billowy tide.

‘ With six-foot lances sharply set
They stand in serried lines,
Like Macedonian phalanx old,
Or rows of horrid pines.’

Sir Eure was hot : he might not hear,
Nor pause to weigh the chances,
But spurred his steed in mid career
Upon the frieze of lances.

Madly they plunge with foaming speed
On that sharp fence of steel,
And on the ground with bleeding flanks,
They tumble, toss, and reel.

Charge upon charge ; but all in vain
The red-cross troop advances—
Rider and horse, high heaped in death,
Lay sprawling ‘neath the lances.

But what is this that now I see ?
In battailous array
Matrons and maids from Ancrum town
Are mingled in the fray.

A goodly band ; not Sparta bred
More valiant-hearted maids
Than these that front the fight to-day.
With pitchforks and with spades.

And as they come, 'Broomhouse !' they cry ;
 These butcher loons shall rue
 Their damnèd force on that fair dame
 Whom at Broomhouse they slew.*

And there stands one, and leads the van,—
 A Maxton † maid, not tall,
 But with heroic soul supreme
 She soars above them all.

With giant stroke she flails about,
 And heaps a score of dead,
 That bring—oh, woe ! a vengeful troop
 Upon her single head.

With swoop of trenchant blades they come,
 And cut her legs away,
 And look that she shall straightway fall
 On ground and bite the clay.

Say, is it by St Bothan's power,
 Or by St Boswell's grace,
 That still she fights, and swings her arms,
 And stoutly holds her place ?

I know not ; but true men were there,
 Who saw her stand a while
 Fighting, till streams of her brave blood
 Gave riches to the soil ;

* In one of their savage raids the troops of the warder had burnt the tower of Broomhouse, and in it its lady, a noble and aged matron, with her whole family.—TYTLER.

† A village on the Tweed, about two miles north of Ancrum Moor, once very populous, and still marked by an old cross.

And then she fell ; and true men there,
 Upon the blood-stained moor
 Upraised a stone to tell her fame,
 That ever shall endure.

All praise to Humes, and Kers, and Scotts !
 But fair Maid Lilliard's deed
 Shall in green honour keep this spot,
 While Teviot runs to Tweed !

IPHIGENIA

Λιτὰς δε καὶ κληδόνας πατρῷους
 παρ' οὐδὲν αἰῶνα παρθένειόν τ'
 ἔθεντο φιλόμαχοι βραβῆς
 φράσεν δ' ἀδέσιος πατήρ μετ' εὐχάν
 δίκαν χιμάιρας ὑπερθε βωμοῦ
 πέπλοισι περιπετῆ
 παντὶ θυμῷ προνωπῆ
 λαβεῖν δέρδην στόματός τε καλλιπρώρουν φυλακὰν κάτασχείν
 φθόγγον ἀράνον οἴκοις.—ÆSCHYLUS.

THE ships are gathered in the bay,
 A thousand-masted army,
 All eager for the Trojan fray,
 But the sky looks black and stormy.
 From Strymon's shore, with surly roar,
 The Thracian blasts are blowing ;
 With fretted breast, and foamy crest,
 The adverse tide is flowing.

And Aulis' shore, so bright before,
Is bleak, and grey, and dreary ;
With dull delay, from day to day,
The seamen's hearts are weary.
Dire omen to their ears the roar
Of Jove's loud-rattling thunder ;
The shivered sail, the shattered oar,
The cable snapt in sunder.

What man is he that stands apart,
In priestly guise long-vested,
Communing deep with his own heart,
By sombre thoughts infested ?
He hath a laurel in his hand,
And on the dark storm gazing,
He broods, as he would understand
The secret of its raising.

'Tis Calchas, whose divining mind
The secret thought can follow
Of Jove, who shows to human kind
His counsel by Apollo.
And they who trust in prophet's skill,
On the lone rock have found him,
And throng, to learn the Supreme will,
In eager crowds around him.

He stands ; he looks, and reads the ground ;
He will nor see nor hear them ;
But still they press, with swelling sound
Of blameful murmurs, near him.

He goes ; against a host in vain
 He plants his single freedom ;
 And to the tent o' the king of men
 With fretful force they lead him.

The Atridan stood without his tent,
 And scanned the welkin curiously,
 If that the storm at length had spent
 Its gusty burden furiously.
 Small help got he from cloud or sky,
 From sad thoughts that oppressed him ;
 But blithe was his eye, when the seer came nigh,
 And thus the king addressed him :—

‘ O son of Thestor ! thou art wise,
 Thou see’st what wintry weather
 Scowls on our bright-faced enterprise,
 And with a close-drawn tether
 Holds us bound here against our will ;
 What cause doth so delay us ?
 Speak, sith thou hast a prophet’s skill,
 To me and Menelaus.’

The seer was dumb ; his fixed eye read
 The insensate sand demurely ;
 ‘ Nay, speak the truth,’ the Atridan said,
 ‘ For thou dost know it surely.
 Thou need’st not fear the strong man’s arm,
 The king of men doth swear it,
 Even by this kingly staff—no harm
 Shall touch thee, while I bear it ! ’

The seer was dumb ; the king was wroth :
‘Thou sellest dear thy prayers,
Thou sour-faced priest, and by my troth,
Like thee are all soothsayers.
A mouthing and a mumping crew,
With all things they will meddle ;
And when they have made much ado,
They speak a two-faced riddle !’

The seer was dumb. ‘Nay, not for me,
Stiff priest, for love of Hellas,
If Jove hath shown the truth to thee,
Untie thy tongue and tell us.
If, in our sacred things, a vice
Some god hath sore offended,
Declare, and, at a tenfold price,
I vow it shall be mended.

‘If fault there be in me or mine,
Or in the chiefs the highest,
I will not swerve, but so incline
As Jove shall point, unbiassed.
My crown, my wealth, my blood, my all,
Myself and Menelaus,
Will give, if so we may recall
The blasts that now delay us.’

Then spake the prophet : ‘King, not well
Apollo’s priest thou chidest ;
But I the unwelcome truth will tell,
And follow where thou guidest.

The best loved stag of Dian thou
 Hast slain with evil arrow ;
 Therefore this vengeful tempest now
 Consumes the Argive marrow.

‘ And thou, even thou, whose was the guilt,
 Must work the just atoning ;
 When blood for blood is freely spilt,
 To joy will turn thy moaning.
 If thou wilt ferry thee and thine
 Safe o’er the smooth-faced water,
 Thou to the goddess must resign
 Blood of thy blood, thy daughter.’

The monarch stood, and with his staff
 He smote the ground in sorrow ;
 Nor spake : the cup that he must quaff
 Is fire that burns his marrow.
 No aid Laertes’ son supplied,
 Nestor, or Menelaus ;
 For we must stay the winds, they cried,
 From Thrace, that so delay us.

And they have choked the father’s prayer ;
 And this their general will is,
 To bring the maid, with promise fair
 To wed her to Achilles.
 And they have sent a courier far
 To Argos steed-delighting,
 And Clytemnestra reins the car,
 To answer their inviting.

And they have come in trim array,
The mother and the daughter,
As hastening to a bridal gay
Beside the briny water.
But, when they reach the Aulian strand,
No sight of gladness meets them ;
Hushed lies the camp ; with outstretched hand
No forward father greets them.

And she is led, the daughter fair,
By will that may not falter,
Where priests a sacrifice prepare
For Dian's gloomy altar ;
Where Calchas stands with folded hands,
And dense beholders gather ;
And with grief bent, on a plane-tree leant
With backward gaze, her father.

Ah, woe is me ! and can it be,
That, with sharp knife, thou darest
Strike such a neck, and forceful break
This flower thy first and fairest ?
Will he not hear, her father dear,
When her shrill plaint she poureth ;
Nor Jove above look down in love,
When guiltless youth imploreth ?

She stretched her hands to the standers by,
And tenderly besought them ;
With shafts of pity from her eye,
The lovely maiden smote them.

O ! like a picture to be seen
Was she, so chaste and beautiful,
And to her father's will had been
In all so meek and dutiful.

How often, at his kingly board,
With filial heart devoted,
To grace the banquet, she had poured
The mellow lay clear-throated !
But now that voice shall sing no more ;
They gag her mouth, lest, dying,
A curse on Argos she should pour,
With evil-omened crying.

And, as stern Calchas gives behest,
They with a cord have bound her ;
And she hath wrapt her saffron vest
In decent folds around her.
And as a kid supine is laid,
They on the altar lay her ;
As bleeds a kid, so bleeds the maid
To the knife o' the priestly slayer.

But a weight is rolled from the heart of Greece
And the clouds from the sky are driven,
And the sun looks down with an eye of peace
From the fresh blue face of heaven.
The westering breeze the seamen hailed,
That smoothed the *Æ*gean water ;
But with sad heart the monarch sailed,
For he had lost a daughter.

ARIADNE

Χρυσοκέμης δε Διάνυσος ξανθὴν Ἀριάδνην
κύνρην Μίνωος, θαλερὴν ποιήσατ' ἀκοιτιν
τὴν τὲ οἱ ἀθάνατον καὶ ἀγήρω θῆκε Κρονίων.—HESIOD.

‘Protinus adspicies venienti nocte coronam
Gnossida ; Theseo criminē facta dea est.’—OVID.

I

ARIADNE, Ariadne,
Thou art left alone, alone !
And the son of Attic Aegeus,
Faithless Theseus, he is flown.
Ariadne, Ariadne,
In a sea-cave left she sleepeth ;
In her dreams her bosom heaveth,
Through her dreams the maiden weepeth.
With an ugly dream she struggles ;
In the bright and sunny weather,
O'er the meadows green and flowery,
She and Theseus walk together.
Suddenly there sweeps a change ;
O'er a moor of hard brown heather,
O'er a bare and treeless waste,
She and Theseus walk together.
Cold and loveless is the air,
Huge white mists are trailing near her :
And the fitful swelling blast
Pipes with shrill note clear and clearer.
By an old grey tower she stands,
Where the ruin starts and crumbles ;

Wandering by a lone black lake,
On a cold grey stone she stumbles.
‘Theseus ! Theseus !’—to his arms
Close she clings ; but like a trailing
Mist he flees ; and o’er the waste
Laughter answers to her wailing.
Dim confusion blinds her eye,
Through her veins the chilly horror
Shoots : she stands ; she looks ; she runs
O’er the moor with mazy error.
And she screams, with rending cries,
‘Save me, Jove, save Ariadne !
Theseus, Theseus, in the waste
Hast thou left thy Ariadne ?’
And the Spirits of the storm
Shout around her—‘Ariadne !
Thou art left alone, alone,
In the waste. O Ariadne !’

II

From the painful dream she wakes,
Starts, and looks, and feels for Theseus
On the cold rock-floor her hand
Falls, and feels in vain for Theseus.
‘Theseus, Theseus !’—he is gone ;
Dost thou see that full sail swelling ?
There he hies, with rapid keel,
Soon to find his Attic dwelling.
‘Theseus ! Theseus !’—she doth beat
The breasted wave with idle screaming.

Like a white sea-bird so small,
Now his distant sail is gleaming :
Now 'tis vanished. · O'er the isle
Hurries vagrant Ariadne ;
None she sees, and, when she calls,
Answers none to Ariadne.
'Neath a high-arched rock she rests,
Weary, and, with meek behaviour,
Stretched upon a stony floor,
Plains her prayer to Jove the Saviour :—

Mighty Jove, strong to destroy,
Stronger to save,
Hear ; nor in vain may Minos' daughter
Thy mercy crave !
Weak is a maiden's wit : I saw
The galliard stranger,
And, with wise clue, I brought him through
The mazy danger.
My father's halls I left ; I gave
My heart's surrender ;
He loved the flower, and plucked the fruit,
With hand untender.
Mighty Jove, the suppliant's friend,
My supplication
Hear thou, and touch my prostrate woe
With restoration !
She spake ; and, on the stony floor,
Stretched she lay in tearful sorrow ;
Slumber, sent from Saviour Jove,
Bound her gently till the morrow.

III

Wake, Ariadne !
Wake from thy slumbers ;
Wake with new heart,
With no sorrow encumbers !
Black night is away now,
And glorious Day now
Reddens apace.
The white mists are fleeing,
And o'er the *Æ*gean,
His shining steeds follow
The call of Apollo,
And snort for the race.
Hark ! through thy slumbers,
Undulant numbers
Quicken the air !
O'er the *Æ*gean
Swells the loud pæan
With melody rare ;
The clear-throated flute,
And the sweet-sounding lute,
The cymbal's shrill jangle,
And tinkling triangle,
And tambour, are there.
Wake, Ariadne !
Look through thy slumbers !
The Mænads, to meet thee,
Marshal their numbers.
Down, from the sky
Dionysus has sent them ;
Rosiest beauty

Venus has lent them.
 Hovering nigh,
 Their thin robes floating,
 With balm in their eye,
 Thy wounds they are noting,
 O Ariadne !

Blest be the bride
 (So echoes their song)
 That shall sleep by the side
 Of the wine-god strong,
 Fair Ariadne !

Daughter of Minos,
 A mortal betrays thee,
 But a god for his bride
 To Olympus shall raise thee !
 Like a gem thou shalt shine
 'Mid the bright starry glory ;
 A name shall be thine
 With the famous in story.
 Wake, Ariadne,
 From Earth's heavy slumbers ;
 Wake to new life,
 Which no sorrow encumbers !

IV

Ariadne from her slumber
 Woke and rose, and smiled benignly,
 Radiant from the rapturous dreams
 That stirred her inmost soul divinely.
 Round her stood the Mænad maids,
 Round her swelled their tuneful chorus

Round her wheeled their floating dance,
To a piping reed sonorous.
With them wheeled a prick-eared crew,
Hairy-limbed, with goatish features ;
Pans and Satyrs strange to view,
Forest-haunting, freakish creatures.
Old Silenus, bald and broad,
Stood beside, his bright face showing
Ploughed with laughter ; his full eye
Brimmed with mirth to overflowing.
Strange ; but Ariadne saw,
With broad eyes, a sight yet stranger ;
Troops of shaggy forest whelps
Thronged around, and brought no danger.
Bearded goat, and tusky boar,
Fox that feasts on stealthy slaughter,
Tawny lion, tiger fierce,
Harmless looked on Minos' daughter
Lo ! a spotted pard appears
At the feet of Ariadne ;
Comes, and, like a prayerful child,
Kneels before thee, Ariadne.
Pleased the savage brute she sees
Stretch its brindled length demurely ;
Mounts the offered seat, and rides
On the panther's back securely.
Forward now the spotted pard
Moves with measured pace and wary ;
Then aloft (O wonder strange !)
Paws the heavenward pathway airy.
Fear thee not, thou Gnossian maid
Gods are with thee where thou fliest ;

Dionysus waits for thee,
 Near the throne of Jove the Highest.
 In Olympus' azure dells,
 Waits the god in ivy bowers,
 Where for the immortal Hebe
 Twines the amaranthine flowers ;
 Where the purple bowl of joy
 Brims for thee ; where bitter sorrow
 Grows not ; where to-day's keen thrill
 Leaves no languid throb to-morrow.
 Flourish there, immortal bride,
 In sculptor's stone and minstrel's story ;
 Shine, to sorrowing hearts a sign,
 High amid the starry glory !

MARATHON

Λειμῶνα τὸν ἐρόεντα Μαραθῶνος.—ARISTOPHANES

I

FROM Pentelicus' pine-clad height
 A voice of warning came,
 That shook the silent autumn night
 With fear to Media's name.
 Pan from his Marathonian cave
 Sent screams of midnight terror,
 And darkling horror curled the wave
 On the broad sea's moonlit mirror.
 Woe, Persia, woe ! thou liest low, low !
 Let the golden palaces groan !
 Ye mothers weep for sons that shall sleep
 In gore on Marathon !

II

Where Indus and Hydaspes roll,
 Where treeless deserts glow,
 Where Scythians roam beneath the pole,
 O'er fields of hardened snow,
 The great Darius rules ; and now,
 Thou little Greece, to thee
 He comes ; thou thin-soiled Athens, how
 Shalt thou dare to be free ?
 There is a God that wields the rod
 Above : by Him alone
 The Greek shall be free, when the Mede
 shall flee
 In shame from Marathon.

III

He comes ; and o'er the bright *Æ*gean,
 Where his masted army came,
 The subject-isles uplift the pæan
 Of glory to his name.
 Strong Naxos, strong Eretria yield ;
 His captains near the shore
 Of Marathon's fair and fateful field,
 Where a tyrant marched before.
 And a traitor guide, the sea beside,
 Now marks the land for his own,
 Where the marshes red shall soon be the bed
 Of the Mede in Marathon.

IV

Who shall number the host of the Mede ?
 Their high-tiered galleys ride,

Like locust-bands with darkening speed,
 Across the groaning tide.
 Who shall tell the many-hoofed tramp
 That shakes the dusty plain ?
 Where the pride of his horse is the strength of his
 camp,
 Shall the Mede forget to gain ?
 Oh fair is the pride of those turms as they
 ride,
 To the eye of the morning shown !
 But a god in the sky hath doomed them to lie
 In dust, on Marathon.

v

Dauntless beside the sounding sea
 The Athenian men reveal
 Their steady strength. That they are free
 They know ; and inly feel
 Their high election, on that day,
 In foremost fight to stand,
 And dash the enslaving yoke away,
 From all the Grecian land.
 Their praise shall sound the world around,
 Who shook the Persian throne,
 When the shout of the free travelled over the
 sea,
 From famous Marathon.

VI

From dark Cithæron's sacred slope,
 The small Platæan band

Bring hearts, that swell with patriot hope,
 To wield a common brand
 With Theseus' sons, at danger's gates ;
 While spell-bound Sparta stands,
 And for the pale moon's changes waits
 With stiff unkindly hands ;
 And hath no share in the glory rare,
 That Athens shall make her own,
 When the long-haired Mede with fearful
 speed
 Falls back from Marathon.

VII

‘On, sons of the Greeks !’ the war-cry rolls ;
 ‘The land that gave you birth,
 Your wives, and all the dearest souls
 That circle round each hearth ;
 The shrines upon a thousand hills,
 The memory of your sires,
 Nerve now with brass your resolute wills,
 And fan your valorous fires !’
 And on like a wave came the rush of the
 brave—
 ‘Ye sons of the Greeks, on, on !’
 And the Mede stept back from the eager
 attack
 Of the Greek, in Marathon.

VIII

Hear’st thou the rattling of spears on the right ?
 Seest thou the gleam in the sky ?

The gods come to aid the Greeks in the fight,
And the favouring heroes are nigh.

The lion's hide I see in the sky,
And the knotted club so fell,
And kingly Theseus' conquering eye,
And Macaria, nymph of the well.

Purely, purely the fount did flow,
When the morn's first radiance shone ;
But eve shall know the crimson flow
Of its wave, by Marathon.

IX

On, son of Cimon, bravely on !

And Aristides just !

Your names have made the field your own,

Your foes are in the dust !

The Lydian satrap spurs his steed,

The Persian's bow is broken ;

His purple pales ; the vanquished Mede

Beholds the angry token

Of thundering Jove who rules above ;

And the bubbling marshes moan

With the trampled dead that have found
their bed

In gore, at Marathon.

X

The ships have sailed from Marathon,

On swift disaster's wings ;

And an evil dream hath fetched a groan

From the heart of the king of kings.

An eagle he saw, in the shades of night,
 With a dove that bloodily strove ;
 And the weak hath vanquished the strong in fight,
 The eagle hath fled from the dove.
 Great Jove, that reigns in the starry plains,
 To the heart of the king hath shown,
 That the boastful parade of his pride was laid
 In dust, at Marathon.

XI

But through Pentelicus' winding vales
 The hymn triumphal runs,
 And high-shrined Athens proudly hails
 Her free-returning sons.
 And Pallas, from her ancient rock,
 With her shield's resplendent round,
 Blazes ; her frequent worshippers flock,
 And high the paeans sound,
 How in deathless glory the famous story
 Shall on the winds be blown,
 That the long-haired Mede was driven with
 speed
 By the Greeks, from Marathon.

XII

And Greece shall be a hallowed name,
 While the sun shall climb the pole,
 And Marathon fan strong freedom's flame
 In many a pilgrim soul.
 And o'er that mound where heroes sleep,
 By the waste and reedy shore,

Full many a patriot eye shall weep,
Till Time shall be no more.

And the bard shall brim with a holier hymn
When he stands by that mound alone,
And feel no shrine on earth more divine
Than the dust of Marathon.

SALAMIS

**Ω κλεινὰ Σαλαμῖς σὺ μέν τον
ναοὺς ἀλίπλαγκτος, εὐδαίμων
πᾶσιν περίφαντος ἀελ.*—SOPHOCLES.

SEEST thou where, sublimely seated on a silver-footed throne,
With a high tiara crested, belted with a jewelled zone,
Sits the king of kings, and, looking from the rocky mountain-side,
Scans with masted armies studded far the fair Saronic tide?
Looks he not with high hope beaming? looks he not with pride elate?
Seems he not a god, the Thunderer? and his words are winged with fate.
He hath come from far Euphrates, and from Tigris' rushing tide,
To subdue the strength of Athens, to chastise the Spartan's pride:
He hath come with countless armies, gathered slowly from afar,
From the plain, and from the mountain, marshalled ranks of motley war;

From the land, and from the ocean, that the
burdened billows groan,
That the air is choked with banners, which great
Xerxes calls his own.
Soothly he hath nobly ridden, o'er the fair fields,
o'er the waste,
As the Earth might bear the burden, with a
weighty-footed haste ;
He hath cut in twain the mountain, he hath bridged
the rolling main,
He hath lashed the flood of Helle, bound the billow
with a chain ;
And the rivers shrink before him, and the sheeted
lakes are dry,
From his burden-bearing oxen, and his hordes of
cavalry ;
And the gates of Greece stand open ; Ossa and
Olympus fail ;
And the mountain-girt Æmonia spreads the many-
watered vale ;
And her troops of famous horse, before the puissant
Persian's nod,
Flee ; the death-defying Spartans prostrate lie be-
neath his rod,
Where with fleshy breast they walled thy famous
pass, Thermopylæ.
And the god that shakes Cithæron feared to block
his forceful way ;
And the blue-eyed maid of Athens shook not then
her heavenly spear,
Rock-perched Pallas, when the tread of the high-
clambering foe was near ;

And the sacred snake, huge-twining guardian of the
virgin shrine,
Where the honeyed cake was waiting, tasted not the
food divine ;
Stood nor man nor god before him ; he hath scoured
the Attic land,
Chased the valiant sons of Athens to a barren
island's strand ;
He hath hedged them round with triremes, lines on
lines of bristling war ;
He hath doomed the prey for capture ; he hath
spread his meshes far ;
And he sits sublimely seated on a throne with pride
elate,
To behold the victim fall beneath the sudden-
swooping Fate.

Who may stand against his might?—with thy thin
slip of rocky coast,
Athens, wilt thou tell thy fifties 'gainst the thou-
sands of his host?
All the might of all the Orient, from the Ganges-
watered Ind
To the isles that fringe the *Æ*gean, 'gainst thy
little state combined ;
Turbaned Persians, with gay panoply from the gold
of distant mines,
Host immortal with their wives, and troops of
spangled concubines ;
Mitred Cissians, high-capped Sacae, and the As-
syrian brazen-crested ;

The high-booted Paphlagonian ; the swart Indian
cotton-vested ;
Shaggy warriors, goatskin-mantled, from the dreary
Caspian strand,
And the camel-mounted riders from the incense-
bearing land,
Thracians fierce, with shouts Bacchantic, and more
savage war-halloo ;
Sacred Tmolus' sons, and Lydia's soft and silken-
vested crew ;
And the sons of hoariest Thebes, and sacerdotal
Memphis, where
Gods, in brutish incarnation, bellow through the
sacred air ;
And the sun-scorched, painted Ethiop, with his
huge-spanned bow of war,
And the woolly-headed Libyan, driving swift the
scythèd car ;
And the boatmen of the lowland, that, with fre-
quent-beating oar,
Plough the pools where floats the lotus, by the fat
Nile's peopled shore :
Such a crew he drives against thee. 'Neath the
dusky-vested Night,
He hath ranged them to entrap thee.

Now behold the glorious light,
Beaming broadly from the chariot of the silver-
steeded day,
Shows revealed the triple barrier of his ships in
close array,

Girdling in the coast of Ajax. Yet no wavering
fear is there;
Firmly stands the line of Athens.

Hark ! their loud shouts split the air.
Not the expected note of terror, not the wild cry
of despair;
Foolish Xerxes ! 'tis the exultant power that swells
strong manhood's breast;
'Tis the broadly-billedow'd pæan from the freemen of
the West.

'Sons of the Greeks ! now save your country !
save your wives and children dear !
Save the sepulchres of your fathers ! save the
shrines of gods that hear
When the patriot prays ! This day makes us free
or slaves for ever !'
On they sail, with steady helming, sworn to die or
to deliver.
Now they meet. Now beak on beak is furious
dashed ; and Sidon old
Drives her brazen-breasted triremes 'gainst the ships
of Athens bold.
A moment equal ; but the Athenian, in the des-
perate-handed strife,
Wields, as patriots well may wield, a surer sword
and sharper knife.
On he presses—close and closer ; cloven booms
and shattered sails,
And the frequent-crashing oarage, mark the track
where he prevails.

Ocean seethes beneath his fury ; and the hostile-fretted flood
Yawns to drink the reeling Tyrian, and the floundering Cyprian's blood.
Sobs the wave with drowned and drowning : where the narrow channels flow,
Vain the strife with death two-handed, here the water, there the foe.
Ship on ship is rudely clashed ; for in the narrow strait confined,
Room is none to use their numbers ; and, with strivings vain and blind,
Where they move they clog the movements of the friend they hoped to aid,
Where they fight they help the battle of the foe they should have stayed.
Vainly, with her Carian triremes, o'er the terror-tangled scene
Artemisia rides the battle like an Amazonian queen ;
All is reasonless confusion. O'er the purple-streaming tide,
Helmless ships and shipless pilots struggle with the billows' pride
Vainly—for the west wind rising with harsh wing and savage roar
Drives the foundered and the drowning countless on the Colian shore.
And to crown such wreck and carnage, when the hottest fight was o'er,
Rode the Athenian galleys proudly to a rocky islet's shore,

Near to Salamis — there the king, to top the sure
deemed victory,
Susa's chiefest bloom had stationed ; and in waiting
there they lie
To help their conquering friends, and swell the
hoped-for triumph. Them the foe
Circle round with bristling beaks, and, where the
billowy waters flow,
Blast them with the arrowy tempest, crush them
with the huge-heaved rock,
Mow them down in rows defenceless, like the butch-
ered bleating flock.
From his throne the monarch sees it, heap on heap
of helpless slaughter,
With the life of Persia crimsoned far the fair
Saronic water.
Rend thy robes, thou foolish Xerxes, rend the air
with piteous cries !
On the rocky coast of Hellas gashed the pride of
Persia lies !

Wake thee ! wake thee ! blinded Xerxes ! God hath
found thee out at last ;
Snaps thy pride beneath His judgment, as the tree
beneath the blast.
Haste thee ! haste thee ! speed thy couriers—Persian
couriers travel lightly—
To declare thy stranded navy, and by cruel death
unsightly
Dimmed thy glory. Hie thee ! hie thee ! hence
e'en by what way thou camest,

Dwarfed to whoso saw thee mightiest, and where
thou wert fiercest, tamest !

Hide thee, where blank Fear shall hunt thee, and,
more surely to undo thee,

Thirst and hunger where thou goest, brothered
demons, shall pursue thee.

Where Cithæron dear to Bromius nods his horro-
crested wood,

To the Phocian, to the Dorian, where Spercheius
rolls his flood,

Through Æmonia steed-delighting, by Magnesia's
wave-lashed strand,

Through the hardy Macedonian's, through the
fierce-souled Thracian's land,

By the reedy Bolbe's waters, by the steep Pangæan
height,

By the stream of holy Strymon thou shalt spur
thy sleepless flight.

Frost and Fire shall league together, wrathful
Heaven to Earth respond,

Strong Poseidon with his trident break thy im-
pious vaunted bond ;

Where he passed, with mouths uncounted eating
up the famished land,

Now a slender skiff shall ferry Xerxes to the Asian
strand.

Haste thee ! haste thee ! they are waiting by the
palace gates for thee,

By the golden gates of Susa eager mourners wait
for thee ;

Haste thee, where the guardian elders wait, a
hoary-bearded train ;

They shall see their king, but never see the sons
they loved again.

Where thy weeping mother waits thee, queen
Atossa waits to see

Dire fulfilment of her troublous vision-haunted sleep
in thee.

She hath dreamt, and she shall see it, how an
Eagle cowed with awe

Gave his kingly crest to pluck before a puny
Falcon's claw.

Haste thee! where the mighty shade of great
Darius through the gloom

Rises dread, to teach thee wisdom, couldst thou
learn it, from the tomb.

There begin the sad rehearsal, and, while streaming
tears are shed,

To the thousand tongues that ask thee, tell the
myriads of the dead!

Blame the god that so deceived thee—for the
mighty men that died

Blame all gods that be, but chiefly blame thyself,
and thine own pride!

Drown thy sorrow with much wailing! beat thy
breast, thy vesture rend,

Tear thy hair, and pluck thy beard—weep till
thou hast no tears to spend;

Call the mourning women to thee! while they lift
the Mysian wail,

Thou to Susa's sonless mothers pour the sorrow-
streaming tale!

POLEMO

Αμήν ἀμήν λέγω σοι, ἐὰν μὴ τις γεννηθῇ ἀνωθεν, οὐ δύναται
ἰδεῖν τὴν βασιλέιαν τοῦ Θεοῦ.—JOHN iii. 3.

Peregrinatus est hic in nequitia, non habitavit

VALERIUS MAXIMUS

'Tis morn. On Parnes, nurse of hardy pines,
Gleams the new-started day,
And on *Ægina*'s briny water shines
The clear far-shimmering ray.

'Neath the old Attic rock white vapours creep
And on the dusty road,
O'er the meek army of his bleating sheep
The shepherd wields his goad.

The city sleeps ; save where the market shows
The first green-furnished stalls,
And from his lair of shelterless repose
The squalid beggar crawls.

Who bursts into the peaceful street, with sound
Of brawl, and wrangling fray,
Rushing with blushless stare and staggering bound,
To greet the modest day ?

A band of revellers, with torn chaplets crowned ;
And at their head I know
The rich man's son, for shameless vice renowned,
Licentious Polemo

Onward they reel, as whim may point the way ;
But he, with firmer pace,
Who hath a will strong to assert its sway
Even in the drunkard's place.

And whither now ? Sometimes God leads a fool
To knock at wisdom's door ;
And so the reveller rushes to the school
Where Plato's holy lore

Is taught by sage severe Xenocrates,
Who, at that early hour,
Mingled wise disputation with the breeze
That stirred the learnèd bower.

Amid the listening scholars Polemo
Sate down ; and, from his place,
With impudent stare his strong contempt did show,
In the mild lecturer's face.

The teacher saw, nor stirred his soul serene,
That reveller to reprove,
But changed his theme, and, with unaltered mien,
More apt discourse he wove

Of temperance, purity, high self-control,
Ideal harmonies fine,
And all that lifts man's doubtful-swaying soul
From bestial to divine.

The scoffer heard ; but soon, with softened stare
And flinching look, confessed
How deep the preacher probed his heart ; for there
He felt a strange unrest.

And as the wise man, with the waxing theme,
More grave and weighty grew,
With swelling doubts he felt his bosom teem,
His flushed cheek paled its hue.

And from his head he plucked the violets blue ;
And, as the speaker woke
More fretful tempest in his breast, he drew
His hand beneath his cloak ;

And rose ; and stood as one that fronts a foe ;
Then, with a sudden turn,
Sank ; in a gushing flood the salt tears flow ;
And, with wild thoughts that burn,

He from the audience rushed. But not his soul
From the new awe that found him
Might rush ; but, with a tyrannous strong control,
Missioned from God, it bound him,

And with his mutinous temper wrestled long,
Till, like a lamb, he lay ;
Then rose, like one with a new nature strong,
To a new life that day ;

And by the chaste and blue-eyed goddess sware
That, from that sacred hour,
He the philosopher's sober garb should wear,
And walk in learnèd bower :

And, as he sware, so lived, that not a breath
Might his pure fame besmirch ;
And taught by word, and mightier deed, till death ;
A saint in Plato's church.

PROMETHEUS

Πᾶσας τέχνας βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.—ÆSCHYLUS

I

BLOW blustering winds ; loud thunders roll !
 Swift lightnings rend the servid pole
 With frequent flash ! his hurtling hail
 Let Jove down-fling ! hoarse Neptune flail
 The stubborn rock, and give free reins
 To his dark steeds with foamy manes
 That paw the strand !—such wrathful fray
 Touches not me, who, even as they,
 Immortal tread this lowly sod,
 Born of the gods a god.

II

Jove rules above ; Fate willed it so.
 'Tis well ; Prometheus rules below.
 Their gusty game let wild winds play,
 And clouds on clouds in thick array
 Muster dark armies in the sky ;
 Be mine a harsher trade to ply,
 This solid Earth, this rocky frame
 To mould, to conquer, and to tame ;
 And to achieve the toilsome plan,
 My workman shall be MAN.

III

The Earth is young. Even with these eyes
 I saw the molten mountains rise

From out the seething deep, while Earth
 Shook at the portent of their birth.
 I saw from out the primal mud
 The reptiles crawl of dull cold blood,
 While wingèd lizards with broad stare
 Peered through the raw and misty air.
 Where then was Cretan Jove? where then
 This king of gods and men?

IV

When naked from his mother Earth,
 Weak and defenceless, man crept forth,
 And on mis-tempered solitude
 Of unploughed field and unclipt wood
 Gazed rudely; when with brutes he fed
 On acorns, and his stony bed
 In dark unwholesome caverns found;
 No skill was then to till the ground,
 No help came then from him above,
 This tyrannous-blustering Jove.

V

The Earth is young. Her latest birth,
 This weakling man, my craft shall girth
 With cunning strength. Him I will take,
 And in stern arts my scholar make.
 This smoking reed, in which I hold
 The empyrean spark, shall mould
 Rock and hard steel to use^{of} man;
 He shall be as a god to plan
 And forge all things to his desire
 By alchemy of fire.

These jagged cliffs that flout the air,
 Harsh granite block so rudely bare,
 Wise Vulcan's art and mine shall own,
 To piles of shapeliest beauty grown.
 The steam that snorts vain strength away
 Shall serve the workman's curious sway
 Like a wise child ; as clouds that sail
 White winged before the summer gale,
 The smoking chariot o'er the land
 Shall roll, at his command.

Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks ! my home
 Stands firm beneath Jove's thundering dome,
 This stable Earth. Here let me work !
 The busy spirits, that eager lurk
 Within a thousand labouring breasts,
 Here let me rouse ; and whoso rests
 From labour let him rest from life.
 To live 's to strive ; and in the strife
 To move the rock, and stir the clod,
 Man makes himself a god.

THE NAMING OF ATHENS

Παρθένοι διμβροφόροι
 Ἐλθωμεν λιπαράν χθόνα Πάλλαδος, εὐανδρον γάν
 Κέκροπος δύψμεναι πολυτήρατον.—ARISTOPHANES.

ON the rock of Erechtheus the ancient, the hoary,
 That rises sublime from the far-stretching plain,

Sate Cecrops, the first in Athenian story
 'Who guided the fierce by the peace-loving rein.
 Eastward away by the flowery Hymettus,
 Westward where Salamis gleams in the bay,
 Northward, beneath the high-peaked Lycabettus,
 He numbered the towns that rejoiced in his
 sway.
 Pleased with his eye with the muster, but rested
 At length where he sate with an anxious love,
 When he thought on the strife of the mighty broad-
 breasted
 Poseidon, with Pallas, the daughter of Jove ;
 For the god of the earth-shaking ocean had sworn it,
 The city of Cecrops should own him supreme,
 Or the land and the people should ruefully mourn it,
 Swamped by the swell of the broad ocean-stream.
 Lo ! from the North, as he doubtfully ponders,
 A light shoots far-streaming ; the welkin it fills ;
 Southward from Parnes bright-bearded it wanders,
 Swift as the courier-fires from the hills.
 Far on the flood of the winding Cephissus,
 There gleams like the shape of a serpentine rod,
 Shimmers the tide of the gentle Ilissus
 With radiance from Hermes the messenger-god.
 Twas he : on the Earth with light touch he de-
 scended,
 And struck the grey rock with his gold-gleaming
 rod,
 While Cecrops with low-hushed devotion attended,
 And reverent awe to the voice of the god.
 'Noble autochthon ! a message I bear thee,
 From Jove in Olympus who regally sways ;

Wise is the god the dark trouble to spare thee,—
Blest is the heart that believes and obeys.
On the peaks of Olympus, the bright snowy-crested,
The gods are assembled in council to-day ;
The wrath of Poseidon, the mighty broad-breasted,
'Gainst Pallas, the spear-shaking maid, to allay ;
And thus they decree—that Poseidon offended,
And Pallas shall bring forth a gift to the place ;
On the hill of Erectheus the strife shall be ended,
When she with her spear, and the god with his
mace,
Shall strike the quick rock ; and the gods shall
deliver
The sentence as Justice shall order ; and thou
Shalt see thy loved city established for ever
With Jove for a judge, and the Styx for a vow.'
He spake ; and, while Cecrops devoutly was
bending,
To worship the knees of the herald of Jove,
Shone from the pole, in full glory descending,
The cloud-car that bore the bright gods from
above,
Beautiful, glowing with many-hued splendour.
O what a kinship of godhead was there !
Juno the stately, full-eyed ; and the tender
Bland-beaming Venus, so rosily fair ;
Dian the huntress, with arrow and quiver,
And airily tripping with light-footed grace ;
Apollo, with radiance poured like a river
Diffusive o'er Earth, from his joy-giving face ;
Bacchus the rubicund ; and with fair tresses,
The bright-fruited Ceres, and Vesta the chaste ;

And the god that delights in fair Venus' caresses,
 Stout Mars, in his mail adamantine encased.
 Then, while wild thunders innocuous gather
 Round his brow, diademed green with the oak,
 On the rock of Erectheus descended the Father,
 And thus to good Cecrops serenely he spoke :
 'Kingly autochthon ! the sorrow deep-rooted
 That gnaweth thy heart, the Olympians know ;
 Too long with Poseidon hath Pallas disputed,—
 This day shall be peace, or great Jove is their foe.'
 He spake ; and a sound like the rushing of ocean,
 From smooth-grained Pentelicus, seizes their ears ;
 From his home in Euboea, with haughty commotion,
 To the place of the judgment, the sea-monarch
 nears.
 On the waves of the wind his blue car travelled
 proudly,
 Proudly his locks to the breeze floated free,
 Snorted his mane-tossing coursers, and loudly
 Blew from the tortuous conch of the sea
 Shrill Tritons the clear-throated blast undisputed,
 That curleth the wild wave, and cresteth the main
 While Nereids around him, the fleet foamy-footed,
 Floated, as floated his undulant rein.
 Thus on the rock of Erectheus alighted
 The god of the sea, and the rock with his mace
 Smote ; for he knew that the gods were invited
 To judge of the gift that he gave to the place.
 Lo ! at the touch of his trident a wonder !
 Virtue to Earth from his deity flows :
 From the rift of the flinty rock cloven asunder,
 A dark-watered fountain ebullient rose.

Inly elastic with airiest lightness
It leapt, till it cheated the eyesight ; and, lo !
It showed in the sun, with a various brightness,
The fine-woven hues of the rain-loving bow.

‘WATER IS BEST !’ cried the mighty, broad-breasted
Poseidon ; ‘O Cecrops, I offer to thee
To ride on the back of the steeds foamy-crested,
That toss their wild manes on the huge-heaving
sea.

The globe thou shalt mete on the path of the waters,
To thy ships shall the ports of far ocean be free ;
The isles of the sea shall be counted thy daughters,
The pearls of the East shall be treasured for
thee !’

He spake ; and the gods, with a high-sounding
pæan,
Applauded ; but Jove hushed the many-voiced
tide ;

‘For now, with the lord of the briny *Æ*gean,
Athena shall strive for the city,’ he cried.

‘See, where she comes !’—and she came, like
Apollo,
Serene with the beauty ripe wisdom confers ;
The clear-scanning eye, and the sure hand to follow
The mark of the far-sighted purpose, was hers.

Strong in the mail of her father she standeth,
And firmly she holds the strong spear in her
hand ;

But the wild hounds of war with calm power she
commandeth,
And fights but to pledge surer peace to the land.

Chastely the blue-eyed approached, and, surveying

The council of wise-judging gods without fear,
The nod of her lofty-throned father obeying,
She struck the grey rock with her nice-tempered
spear.

Lo ! from the touch of the virgin a wonder !
Virtue to Earth from her deity flows :
From the rift of the flinty rock cloven asunder,
An olive-tree greenly luxuriant rose—
Green, but yet pale, like an eye-drooping maiden,
Gentle, from full-blooded lustihood far ;
No broad-staring hues for rude pride to parade in,
No crimson to blazon the banners of war.
Mutely the gods, with a calm consultation,
Pondered the fountain, and pondered the tree ;
And the heart of Poseidon, with high expectation,
Throbbed, till great Jove thus pronounced the
decree :
'Son of my father, thou mighty, broad-breasted
Poseidon, the doom that I utter is true ;
Great is the might of thy waves foamy-crested,
When they beat the white halls of the screaming
sea-mew :
Great is the pride of the keel when it danceth,
Laden with wealth, o'er the light-heaving wave ;
When the East to the West, gaily floated, advanceth,
With a word from the wise, and a help from the
brave.
But Earth, solid Earth, is the home of the mortal,
That toileth to live, and that liveth to toil ;
And the green olive-tree twines the wreath of his
portal,
Who peacefully wins his sure bread from the soil.'

Thus Jove ; and aloft the great council celestial
Rose, and the sea-god rolled back to the sea ;
But Athena gave Athens her name, and terrestrial
Joy, from the oil of the green olive-tree.

JOHN FRAZER

JOHN FRAZER was a pious man,
Who dwelt in lone Dalquhairn,
Where huge hills feed the founts of Ken,
'Twixt Sanquhar and Carsphairn.

King Charles he was a despot fell ;
With harlots and buffoons
He filled his court, and scoured the hills
With troopers and dragoons.

For he hated all the godly men,
When, free on heather braes,
Their hearts would brim with an holy hymn
To their great Maker's praise.

And he hated good John Frazer,
And he bade his troopers ride
Up dale and dell, by crag and fell,
And snow-wreathed mountain side.

One night in bleak December,
When the snow was drifting down,
John Frazer sate by his ingle-side
With his good wife Marion.

And they spake as godly folk will speak,
O' the kirk, and the kirk's concerns,
Of hair-breadth 'scapes in thousand shapes,
And they spake o' their bonnie bairns.

'Tramp, tramp ! Who's there ? 'Tis they, O Heaven !
The Devil's own errand loons !
They've lifted the latch, and there they stand,
Six striding stark dragoons !

'Too late, too late, thou crop-eared Whig !
Too late to turn and flee !
To-morrow thou'l dance thy latest jig,
High on a gallows-tree !'

They bound his arms and legs with thongs,
As hard as they were able ;
Then took him where their horses stood,
And locked him in the stable.

Then back to the house they came, and bade
The sorrowful gudewife pour
The stout brown ale—for well they knew
She kept a goodly store.

The gudewife was a prudent dame ;
The stout brown ale brought she ;
They filled and quaffed, and quaffed and filled,
And talked with boisterous glee.

And many a ribald song they sang,
And told in jeering strain
How God's dear saints were seized and bound,
And hounded o'er the main.

And many an ugly oath they swore,
That made the gudewife turn pale ;
But she smoothed her face with a decent grace,
And still she poured the ale.

And still they drank, and still they sang,
And still they cursed and swore ;
The clock struck twelve ! the clock struck one
And still they cried for more.

The gudewife was a prudent dame,
She broached her ripest store :
The clock struck two ! the clock struck three !
And still the gudewife did pour.

Then up and spake the first dragoon,
'Now mount and grip the reins, boys !
It suits not well that a bold dragoon
Should drink away his brains, boys.'

Then up they rose, and, with an oath,
Went reeling to the stable ;
Their steeds bestrode, and off they rode
As fast as they were able.

With lamp in hand the gudewife rose
And to the stable ran,
And looked, and looked, till in a nook
She found her own gudeman !

Now, God be praised ! he's fresh and hale !
A mighty work this day
The Lord hath done ! The stout brown ale
Hath stol'n their wits away.

Eftsoons she brought a huge sharp knife
 And cut the thongs in tway ;
 Now, run gudeman, and save thy life !
 They'll be back by break o' day !

And off he ran, like a practised man—
 For oft for his life ran he—
 And lurked in the hills, till God cast down
 King Charles and his company.

And lived to tell, when over the wave
 Went James with his Popish loons,
 How God by stout brown ale did save
 His life from the drunk dragoons.

THE TWO MEEK MARGARETS

IT fell on a day in the blooming month of May,
 When the trees were greenly growing,
 That a captain grim went down to the brim
 O' the sea, when the tide was flowing.

Twa maidens he led, that captain grim,
 Wi' his red-coat loons behind him,
 Twa meek-faced maids, and he sware that he
 In the salt sea-swell should bind them.

And a' the burghers o' Wigton town
 Came down, full sad and cheerless,
 To see that ruthless captain drown
 These maidens meek, but fearless.

O what had they done, these maidens meek,
What crime all crimes excelling,
That they should be staked on the ribbed sea-sand,
And drowned, where the tide was swelling ?

O wae's me, wae ! but the truth I maun say !
Their crime was the crime of believing
Not man, but God, when the last false Stuart
His Popish plot was weaving.

O spare them ! spare them ! thou captain grim !
No ! no !—to a stake he hath bound them,
Where the floods as they flow, and the waves as they
grow,
Shall soon be deepening around them.

The one had threescore years and three ;
Far out on the sand they bound her,
Where the first dark flow of the waves as they grow
Is quickly swirling round her.

The other was a maiden fresh and fair ;
More near to the land they bound her,
That she might see by slow degree
The grim waves creeping round her.

O captain, spare that maiden grey,
She's deep in the deepening water !
No ! no ! she's lifted her hands to pray,
And the choking billow caught her !

‘See, see, young maid,’ cried the captain grim,
 ‘The wave shall soon ride o’er thee !
 She’s swamped in the brine whose sin was like
 thine, .
 See that same fate before thee !’

‘I see the Christ who hung on a tree
 When His life for sins he offered ;
 I’m one of His members, even He
 With that meek maid hath suffered.’

‘O, captain, save a meek young maid ;
 She’s a loyal farmer’s daughter !’
 ‘Well, well ! let her swear to good King James,
 And I’ll hale her out from the water !’

‘I will not swear to Popish James,
 But I pray for the head of the nation,
 That he and all, both great and small,
 May know God’s great salvation !’

She spoke ; and lifted her hands to pray,
 And felt the greedy water,
 Deep and more deep, around her creep,
 Till the choking billow caught her !

O, Wigton, Wigton ! I’m wae to sing
 The truth o’ this wae-some story ;
 But God will sinners to judgment bring,
 And His saints shall reign in glory.

VENUS ANADYOMENE

APHRODITE, Ocean daughter,
Once a goddess, still the same,
When I look on purest water
 Then I spell thy mystic name.
When I see the tips of Ocean,
 Curling, cresting in the breeze,
And the Sun with lightsome motion
 Shimmering o'er the azure seas ;
When I see the sport of shadow
 Where the silvery wavelets sleep,
And a hue that mocks the meadow
 Purpling o'er the various deep,—
Then I know thee, Aphrodite,
 Queen of beauty, queen of power,
Thee the lovely, thee the mighty,
 From life's first to latest hour.
When before my raptured eye
 Soft thy silver shell ascending,
Borne by Triton-hands on high,
 Wreaths of rosy Nymphs attending,
Soars, a milder feature blending
 With the awe that clothes the sky.
Steep Olympus opes its portals ;
 Thou dost tread the starry way,
And the host of strong Immortals
 Bends before thy gentle sway.
Pallas veils her sterner glory,
 Wisdom wisely yields to love,

Flees the weighty cloud before thee
From the thunder-brow of Jove.
Mars, the fierce mane-shaking lion,
Now a lamb to greet thee falls ;
Haughty Hera, love defying,
Lonely walks through ether's halls.
Aphrodite, Ocean daughter,
Though I bear no heathen name,
When I see thy fairest frame
Rising from the bright blue water,
I may worship without blame.

THE OLD SOLDIER OF THE GARELOCH HEAD

(A SONG WRITTEN ON THE SPOT)

I'VE wander'd east and west,
And a soldier I have been ;
The scars upon my breast
Tell the wars that I have seen.
But now I'm old and worn,
And my locks are thinly spread,
And I'm come to die in peace
By the Gareloch Head.

When I was young and strong,
Oft a wandering I would go,
By the rough shores of Loch Long,
Up to lone Glencroe.

But now I'm fain to rest,
And my resting-place I've made
On the green and gentle bosom
Of the Gareloch Head.

'Twas here my Jeanie grew,
Like a lamb amid the flocks,
With her eyes of bonnie blue,
And her golden locks.
And here we often met,
When with lightsome foot we sped
O'er the green and grassy knolls
At the Gareloch Head.

'Twas here she pined and died—
O ! the salt tear in my e'e
Forbids my heart to hide
What Jeanie was to me !
'Twas here my Jeanie died,
And they scoop'd her lowly bed
'Neath the green and grassy turf
At the Gareloch Head.

Like a leaf in leafy June
From the leafy forest torn,
She fell ; and I'll fall soon,
Like a sheaf of yellow corn ;
For I'm sere and weary now,
And I soon shall make my bed
With my Jeanie 'neath the turf
At the Gareloch Head.

THE MERRY BALLAD OF STOCK GEILL

GOOD lords and ladies, who refuse to bend before
 a log,
 I'll tell you of a merry gest, that gave the Pope
 a shog ;
 A gest that chanced in Embro' toun, and in the
 High Street old
 Where Willock taught, and stout John Knox, that
 faithful preacher bold.

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
 the tale I tell is true ;
 We dashed his bones against the stones,
 and his stump in flinders flew !

'Twas the first day of September, and the priests were
 all agog,
 All through the town, with pomp to bear the newly-
 painted log ;
 For the old Stock Geill, the silly god, was in the
 North Loch drowned,
 And they have beaten about about, till a new one
 they have found.

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
 the old god and the new !
 We dashed his bones against the stones,
 and his stump in flinders flew !

There goes a stir through all the streets, a buzz
 through all the town ;
 With banners, flags, and crosses, they are walking up
 and down ;

The Regent Queen, the wily Guise, put on her
proudest smile,

And busked her in her brawest gown, to march with
the young Stock Geill;

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
the old god and the new !

We'll dash his bones against the stones, and
shame the shaveling crew !

A marmoset ! a marmoset ! the devil work them
sorrow !

They've brought him from the Grey Friars, and
nailed him to a barrow !

Then on their heads they lift him, and with sound-
ing pomp they come,

With Latin rant, and snivelling chant, and pipe, and
fife, and drum.

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
this day the priests shall rue !

Against the stones we'll dash the bones o'
the idol painted new !

A marmoset ! a marmoset ! the puppet-god to show
West about, and east about, and round about they go ;
Along the Luckenbooths they trail, and down to
Big Jack's Close,

And the bone of his arm, to work a charm, they kiss
at the Abbey Cross !

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
this kissing ye shall rue !

We'll dash your bones against the stones,
though you're painted fresh and new !

Now hold your god, ye shaveling loons ! for the
Queen she's gone to dine,
Full weary from the march, I ween, with Sandy
Carpentine ;

There brews a storm betwixt the Bows—the crowd
looks black and grim !

They rush !—they spring !—hold fast your god !
they'll tear him limb from limb !

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
this dainty godling new !

They mass their bands, and with strong
hands they'll do ! they'll do ! they'll do !

They rived the nails, they seized him by the feet—
I tell thee true,

They dashed his head against the stones—his stump
in flinders flew.

Thou young Stock Geill, and wilt thou die, poor imp,
and give no token ?

Thy father had a stouter skull, was not so lightly
broken !

Sing hey Stock Geill ! and ho Stock Geill !
the silly godling new !

We dashed his bones against the stones,
and his stump in flinders flew !

Then hurly burly ! light as straw the priests were
blown asunder ;

They puffed and blew, they panted hot, they gaped
with foolish wonder ;

Down go their crosses ! up their skirts ! their caps fly
in the air ;

Their surplice flaps ; they run as fast as them their legs can bear !

Like crows at pop of gun, the grey and black-stoled friars flew,

'Mid curse and sneer, and gibe and jeer, and merry, wild halloo !

And so this gest was bravely done that gave the Pope a shog,

That now no stout Scotch knee might bend before a painted log !

The Devil's lumber-room we swept—for thus John Knox did say ;

'Pull down the rookery, and the rooks will quickly fly away !'

We left no trappings of Stock Geill ; that day we ne'er shall rue,

When we dashed his bones against the stones, and his stump in flinders flew !

THE EMIGRANT LASSIE

As I came wandering down Glen Spean

Where the braes are green and grassy,

With my light step I overtook

A weary-footed lassie.

She had one bundle on her back,

Another in her hand,

And she walked as one who was full loath

To travel from the land.

Quoth I, 'My bonnie lass !'—for she
Had hair of flowing gold,
And dark brown eyes, and dainty limbs,
Right pleasant to behold—

'My bonnie lass, what aileth thee,
On this bright summer day,
To travel sad and shoeless thus
Upon the stony way ?

'I'm fresh and strong, and stoutly shod,
And thou art burdened so ;
March lightly now, and let me bear
The bundles as we go.'

'No, no !' she said, 'that may not be ;
What's mine is mine to bear ;
Of good or ill, as God may will,
I take my portioned share.'

'But you have two, and I have none ;
One burden give to me ;
I'll take that bundle from thy back
That heavier seems to be.'

'No, no !' she said ; '*this*, if you will,
That holds—no hand but mine
May bear its weight from dear Glen Spean
'Cross the Atlantic brine !'

'Well, well ! but tell me what may be
Within that precious load,

Which thou dost bear with such fine care
Along the dusty road?

‘Belike it is some present rare
From friend in parting hour;
Perhaps, as prudent maidens wont,
Thou tak’st with thee thy dower.’

She drooped her head, and with her hand
She gave a mournful wave:
‘Oh, do not jest, dear sir!—it is
Turf from my mother’s grave!’

I spoke no word: we sat and wept
By the road-side together;
No purer dew on that bright day
Was dropt upon the heather.

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE GAELIC

MARY LAGHACH

(After John MacDonald)

CHORUS

*Ho ! my bonnie Mary,
My dainty love, my queen,
The fairest, rarest Mary
On earth was ever seen.
Ho ! my queenly Mary
That made me king of men,
To call thee mine own Mary
Born in the bonnie glen !*

I

Young was I and Mary,
In the windings of Glensmeoil,
When came that imp of Venus,
And caught us with his wile,
And pierced us with his arrows
That we thrilled in every pore,
And loved as mortals never loved
On this green earth before.

II

Oftimes myself and Mary
Strayed up the bonnie glen,
Our hearts as pure and innocent
As little children then ;
Boy Cupid finely taught us
To dally and to toy,
When the shade fell from the green tree,
And the sun was in the sky.

III

If all the wealth of Albyn
Were mine, and treasures rare,
What boots all gold and silver,
If sweet love be not there ?
More dear to me than rubies
In deepest veins that shine
Is one kiss from the lovely lips
That rightly I call mine.

IV

Thy bosom's heaving whiteness
With beauty overbrims,
Like swan upon the waters
When gentlest it swims ;
Like cotton on the moorland,
Thy skin is soft and fine,
Thy neck is like the sea-gull
When dipping in the brine.

v

The locks about thy dainty ears
Do richly curl and twine ;
Dame Nature rarely grew a wealth
Of ringlets like to thine.
There needs no hand of hireling
To twist and plait thy hair,
But where it grew it winds and falls
In wavy beauty there !

vi

Like snow upon the mountains,
Thy teeth are pure and white ;
Thy breath is like the cinnamon,
Thy mouth buds with delight.
Thy cheeks are like the cherries,
Thine eyelids soft and fair,
And smooth thy brow, untaught to frown,
Beneath thy golden hair.

vii

The pomp of mighty kaisers
Our state doth far surpass,
When beneath the leafy coppice
We lie upon the grass ;
The purple flowers around us
Outspread their rich array,
Where the lusty mountain streamlet
Is leaping from the brae.

VIII

Nor harp, nor pipe, nor organ
 From touch of cunning men,
 Made music half so eloquent
 As our hearts thrilled with then ;
 When the blithe lark lightly soaring,
 And the mavis on the spray,
 And the cuckoo in the greenwood,
 Sang hymns to greet the May.

MY LOVE SHE IS FAIRER

(After Ewan MacLachlan)

I

My love she is fairer
 Than swan when it swims,
 Or the foam of the sea
 When on pebbles it brims ;
 Like milk in the milk-pail
 When purest its flow,
 Or tips of the pine tree
 New sprinkled with snow.

II

Her ringlets are floating
 In golden display,
 Like cloudlets that sail
 O'er the blossomy brae !

Her cheeks like the roses
When freshest their hue,
And the sun on May morning
Is kissing the dew.

III

Like Venus when brightest
She looks from the sky,
Is the charm of her look
And the trick of her eye.
Her neck it is jewelled
With beauty and grace,
Like the bright silver moon
When the stars hide their face.

IV

The lark and the mavis,
In field and on spray,
Pour greeting full-throated
In praise of the May ;
But the lark has no skill,
And the mavis no glee,
When my lass thrills the air
With sweet soul-melodie !

V

When summer with daisies
Has spotted the lea,
And the home of the warbler
Is flooded with glee,

I wander alone
 'Neath the green-waving tree,
 And I sing of the maid
 That brings summer to me !

MO CHAILINN DILIS DONN

I

MAY health and joy be with you,
 My bonnie nut-brown maid,
 With your dress so trim and tidy,
 And your hair of bonnie braid.
 Thy voice to me is music
 When heavy I may be,
 And it heals my heart's deep sorrow
 To speak a word with thee.

II

'Tis in sadness that I'm rocking
 This night upon the sea,
 Right scanty is my slumber
 When thy smile is far from me ;
 'Tis on thee that I am thinking,
 'Tis thy face that I behold,
 And if I may not find thee
 May I lie beneath the mould.

III

Thine eyes are like the blaeberry
Full and fresh upon the brae ;
Thy cheeks blush like the rowans
On a mellow autumn day.
If the gossips say I hate thee,
'Tis an ugly lie they tell,
Each day's a year to me since
I left my lovely Nell.

IV

They said that I did leave thee
To feed on lovelier cheer,
That I turned my back upon thee
For thy kiss was no more dear ;
O never heed their tattle,
My bonnie, bonnie lass,
Thy breath to me is sweeter
Than the dew upon the grass.

V

Before we heaved our anchor
Their evil speech began,
That you no more should see me
The false and faithless man ;
Droop not thy head, my darling,
My heart is all thine own,
No power from thee can part me
But cruel death alone.

VI

There are story-telling people
 In the world, great and small,
 Their heart it swells with poison,
 And their mouth it droppeth gall ;
 Ev'n let them spin their lies now,
 They'll see the thing that's true,
 When the minister shall speak the word
 That maketh one of two.

VII

The knot of love that binds us
 Is tied full sure and tight ;
 What matters if they wrong me,
 When I know that I am right ?
 There's many a rich curmudgeon
 Frets his heart with bitter spleen ;
 But I can live, and love, and laugh,
 Although my purse be lean.

BEN DORAIN

(After Duncan Ban)

I

HONOUR be to Ben Dorain
 Above all Bens that be !
 Beneath the sun mine eyes beheld
 No lovelier Ben than he ;

With his long smooth stretch of moor,
And his nooks remote and sure
 For the deer,
When he smiles in the face of day,
And the breeze sweeps o'er the brae
 Keen and clear ;
With his greenly-waving woods,
And his grassy solitudes,
And the stately herds that fare
 Feeding there ;
And the troop with white behind,
When they scent the common foe,
Then wheel to sudden flight
 In a row,
Proudly snuffing at the wind
 As they go.

Right mettlesome is he,
The stag with lightsome glee ;
 Who like him,
When he paces on the side
Of the Ben, with healthy pride,
So gallant and so gay,
In the fashion of the brae,
 Neat and trim ?
No cause hath he to fear
The wearing of his gear
 With the time,
When with mantle of the red,
Round his shoulders bravely spread,
 He doth climb.
And a youth doth walk behind,

With his face against the wind,
And with danger in his mind
 To the deer.
His hand is firm and steady,
And his eight-grooved gun is ready
 With its gear,
With its flint full sharp and keen,
And its trigger close and clean
 To the hand ;
When the hammer right and tight
On the pan's smooth lid shall smite
It will bring a deadly light
 At command ;
With a bore of honest fame,
And a stock that none may blame,
From a gun of goodly shape
No deer may find escape
 In the land.
For the hunter hath a skill
That will work his wary will
Though the quarry on the hill
 Flee like wind ;
And should Donald with his men,
Stoutly striding through the glen,
Mark his prey with cunning ken
 From behind,
O the bullets then will fly
Like lightning from the sky
 On thy head,
And the hind that walks the Ben
In her gory garment then
 Will lie dead !

II

'Tis a nimble little hind,
Giddy-headed like her kind,
That goes sniffing up the wind
 In her scorning ;
With her nostrils sharp and keen,
Somewhat petulant I ween,
'Neath the crag's rim she is seen
 In the morning ;
For she feareth to come down
From the broad and breezy crown
 Of Ben Dorain,
Lest the hunter's cruel shot
In the low encircled spot
 Should be pouring.
She hath breath in breast at will
As she scampers o'er the hill
 Without panting,—
Ruddy wealth of healthy blood
From the lusty fatherhood
Of Ben Dorain's antlered brood
 Finely vaunting ;
And I stand with charmèd ear
 As I go,
If the echo I may hear
 Of her low.
And she seeketh round about
For the stag I little doubt,
When the season of the year
Brings hot passion to the deer :

The stag she seeks to please
In the flaunting of the breeze,
When he lifts his haughty head,
With his horns so grandly spread

Loudly roaring ;

And right well knoweth he
All the leafy nooks that be
In Ben Dorain.

Though in sooth it passeth me
All the antlered troops to tell
That sweep through dale and dell

In Ben Dorain,

The hind I know full well,
With her slender shapely limb
So fashioned and so trim,
When she leads her dappled brood
Through the rough and tangled wood

Up the pass ;

You will never with your ken
Mark her flitting paces when
With lightsome tread she trips
O'er the light unbroken tips

Of the grass ;

Not in all the islands three,
Nor wide Europe, may it be
That a step so light and clean

Hath been seen,

When she sniffs the mountain breeze
And goes wandering at her ease,
Or sports as she may please

On the green ;

Not she will ever feel

Fret or evil humour when
She makes a sudden wheel,
And flies with rapid heel
 O'er the Ben ;
With her fine and frisking ways
She steals sorrow from her days,
Nor shall old age ever press
On her head with sore distress
 In the glen.
And surely she doth wear
A dress both rich and rare
In firm flesh and healthy looks
 Much excelling,
With the green and grassy nooks
Of the forest fresh and fair
 For her dwelling.
And for choice food in sooth
She hath a dainty tooth
When she wanders at her will
 Through the green depths of the hill,
 Richly storing
For her fawns sweet milk that flows
From soft mountain grass that grows
 On Ben Dorain ;
Stout nurslings of the hill,
Whom the cold blasts may not chill
 Of the mountain,
As they foot it to and fro,
Drinking vigour as they go,
From the pure untainted flow
 Of the fountain ;
With no sorrow in their heart,

As from glen to glen they dart
 On the mountain.
 Nor need they fear the snow,
 Nor the swelling
 Of the storm, nor winds that blow
 Sharply yelling,
 Though no shapely house their own
 Of the well-compacted stone
 They can show ;
 Yet with prudent haste they hurry
 To their refuge in the corrie
 Which they know,
 'Neath the hollows of the rocks,
 'Mid the rugged stumps and stocks
 'Neath the boulders and the blocks
 Lying low.

III

My delight it was to rise
 With the early morning skies,
 All aglow,
 And to brush the dewy height
 Where the deer in airy state
 Wont to go ;
 At least a hundred brace
 Of the lofty antlered race,
 When they left their sleeping-place,
 Light and gay ;
 When they stood in trim array,
 And with low deep-breasted cry,
 Flung their breath into the sky,
 From the brae :

When the hind, the pretty fool,
Would be rolling in the pool

At her will ;

Or the stag in gallant pride,
Would be strutting at the side
Of his haughty-headed bride,
On the hill.

And sweeter to my ear
Is the concert of the deer

In their roaring,

Than when Erin from her lyre
Warmest strains of Celtic fire
May be pouring ;

And no organ sends a roll
So delightsome to my soul,
As the branchy-crested race,
When they quicken their proud pace
And bellow in the face

Of Ben Dorain.

O what joy to view the stag
When he rises 'neath the crag,
And from depth of hollow chest
Sends his bell across the waste,
While he tosses high his crest,
Proudly scorning.

And from milder throat the hind,
Lows an answer to his mind,
With the younglings of her kind
In the morning ;

With her vivid swelling eye,
While her antlered lord is nigh,
She sweeps both earth and sky,

Far away ;
And beneath her eyebrow grey
Lifts her lid to greet the day,
And to guide her turf-y way
O'er the brae.

O how lightsome is her tread,
When she gaily goes ahead
O'er the green and mossy bed
Of the rills ;

When she leaps with such a grace
You will own her pretty pace
Ne'er was hindmost in the race,

When she wills ;
Or when with sudden start
She defies the hunter's art,
And is vanished like a dart
O'er the hills !

And her food full well she knows,
In the forest where she goes,
Where the rough old pasture grows
To her mind.

Stiff grass of virtue rare,
Glossy fatness to prepare,
'Neath her coat of shining hair,
To the hind ;

And for drink she hath the well,
Where the water-cresses dwell,
Far sweeter to her taste,
In the freshness of the waste,
Than sweet wine ;

The blushing daisy-tips
Are a dainty to her lips,

As the nodding grass she clips,
Very fine;

St John's wort too she knows,
And where the sweet primrose
And the spotted orchis grows,
She will dine.

With such food and drink, I ween,
You will never find them lean,
But girt with pith and power,
To stand stoutly in the hour
Of distress;

And though laden on the back
With weighty fat no lack,
With well-compacted limb
They will wear it light and trim,
Like a dress.

O how pleasant 'twas to see
How happy they would be,
When they gathered all together
To their home upon the heather,
In the gloaming!

At the bottom of the hill
They were safe from touch of ill,
In their nook of shelter tight,
When they rested for the night
From their roaming.

What though the nights were long,
And the winds were sharp and strong
In their roaring,

Wrapt in thick fur of the red,
Where the moor is widely spread,
Here they make their turfy bed,

And their sleep was sweet and sound,
 With no wish beyond the bound
 Of Ben Dorain.

IV

For Ben Dorain lifts his head
 In the air,
 That no Ben was ever seen
 With his grassy mantle spread,
 And rich swell of leafy green,
 May compare ;
 And 'tis passing strange to me
 When his sloping side I see
 That so grand
 And beautiful a Ben
 Should not flourish among men,
 In the scutcheon and the ken
 Of the land.
 'Tis plenished o'er and o'er,
 With rich gifts a fruitful store,
 You will seek and far explore
 Ere you find ;
 Not a single spot is bare,
 From the jewelled greenness there,
 And blossoms waving fair
 In the wind ;
 Where the cock, the prideful-breasted,
 Swells his crow,
 And the birds, the gentle-nested,
 Pour the flow
 Of their voicing and rejoicing,
 As they go ;

There the roebuck too is seen,
So nimble on the green
 Of the brae,
When he runs and never tumbles,
When he climbs and never stumbles,
 All the way ;
With sharp horn upon his head,
And stout tramping hoof to tread,
With a soul of joyous brightness,
And long limbs of limber lightness,
And a tidy tripping tightness,
 He will climb,
Through the brushwood and the fern,
With brave dash of unconcern,
On the low and lushy meadow,
'Neath the mighty mountain shadow,
Or high upon the jag
Of the mist-engirdled crag,
 All sublime.
When the heat is in his blood,
He will dart from out the wood,
 Nothing slow ;
He will gather up his might,
Like an arrow drawn for flight
 From the bow ;
And then spring with lightsome skill
To the nook behind the hill,
Where he pleasures at his will
 With the doe.
And in sooth it suits her well
With her dappled brood to dwell
 In the glen,

This coquettish little doe,
That is waiting for her beau
From the Ben.

With an eye so keen and clear,
With an ear so quick to hear,
And rapid hoofs that clear
The long bleak moor behind
Like the wind.

If all the mighty race
Of the Fin should give her chase,
Or the men
Who receive the golden pay
Of King George, in red array,
She would mock their lagging way
On the Ben.

If only free from scot,
To their powder and their shot,
She might go,
No man of mortal kin,
Would bring sorrow to the skin
Of the doe ;

Such a web of shifting ways,
In the windings of the braes,
She will try ;

And though she shy the race
Of the hounds in panting chase,
Up the steepest granite face
She will fly,

Till she triumph o'er the foe,
This tricksy little doe,
As she tosses her light head
In the air ;

Then crouching she will lie,
With a wakeful watching eye,
And the dappled people nigh
To her lair.

v

This is my pretty doe,
With her fine fantastic ways,
As so lightly she will go,
With her slender shapely limb,
'Neath the green and shaggy rim
Of the braes ;
Sweet leafage of the wood
And crisp heather for her food,
She will praise :
Very light of heart, I ween,
Right sprightly is her mien,
And her frown was never seen
On the Ben,
Though a foolish thought will flit
Through her slight unsteady wit
In a gay and giddy fit,
Now and then ;
But right modest is my doe,
And in grace is nothing scant,
When she quietly will go
To her home and hidden haunt
In the glen ;
And my vagrant little doe,
When she wanders far and free
On the rough and mottled meadow,
Where the big rock flings a shadow,

On Monday and on Sunday

You may see ;

And well she knows to find

The bushy coppice nigh,

Where in covert from the wind

She may lie ;

The screened and shaded place

Which the tempest's rapid race

And the thunder's rolling pace

Passes by.

And when she wills to drink,

Straight she stands upon the brink

Of the fountain

That comes gushing from a chink

In the mountain ;

And she taketh in a wealth

Of freshness and of health

From the draught,

Such as mortal never knew

Strong ale of stiffest brew

When he quaffed.

And when the mountain ranger

Brings glimpse of sudden danger

To the doe,

She hath limbs of supple length

That will try the hunter's strength

Round and round,

As he follows every fit

Of her rapid-shifting wit

O'er the ground.

O how oft I felt the grace

Of her light-complexioned face,

And her warm coat's ruddy pride
On the healthy mountain side,
Not to mention winning ways,
And points of pretty praise
 Many mo ;
In Europe far and near
She hath fleetness without peer,
And the sharpest car to hear
 That I know.

VI

Right pleasant was the view
Of that fleet red-mantled crew,
As with sounding hoof they trod
O'er the green and turfey sod
 Up the brae,
As they sped with lightsome hurry
Through the rock-engirded corrie,
With no lack of food, I ween,
When they cropped the banquet green
 All the way.
O grandly did they gather,
In a jocund troop together,
 In the corrie of the Fern
With light-hearted unconcern ;
Or by the smooth green loan
Of Achalader were shown,
Or by the ruined station
Of the old heroic nation
 Of the Fin,
Or by the willow rock
Or the witch-tree on the knock

The branchy-crested flock
Might be seen.
Nor will they stint the measure
Of their frolic and their pleasure
And their play,
When with airy-footed amble
At their freakish will they ramble
O'er the brae,
With their prancing and their dancing,
And their ramping and their stamping,
And their plashing and their washing
In the pools,
Like lovers newly wedded,
Light-hearted, giddy-headed
Little fools.
No thirst have they beside
The mill-brook's flowing tide
And the pure well's lucid pride
Honey-sweet ;
A spring of lively cheer,
Sparkling cool and clear,
And filtered through the sand
At their feet ;
'Tis a life-restoring flood
To repair the wasted blood
The cheapest and the best in all the land ;
And vainly gold will try
For the Queen's own lips to buy
Such a treat.
From the rim it trickles down
Of the mountain's granite crown
Clear and cool ;

Keen and eager though it go
Through your veins with lively flow,
Yet it knoweth not to reign
In the chambers of the brain

With misrule ;

Where dark water-cresses grow
You will trace its quiet flow,
With mossy border yellow,
So mild, and soft, and mellow,
In its pouring.

With no slimy dregs to trouble
The brightness of its bubble
As it threads its silver way
From the granite shoulders grey
Of Ben Dorain.

Then down the sloping side
It will slip with glassy slide
Gently welling,
Till it gather strength to leap,
With a light and foamy sweep,
To the corrie broad and deep
Proudly swelling ;

Then bends amid the boulders,
'Neath the shadow of the shoulders
Of the Ben,

Through a country rough and shaggy,
So jaggy and so knaggy,
Full of hummocks and of hunches,
Full of stumps and turfs and bunches,
Full of bushes and of rushes,

In the glen,

Through rich green solitudes,

And wildly hanging woods
With blossom and with bell,
In rich redundant swell,
 And the pride
Of the mountain daisy there,
And the forest everywhere,
With the dress and with the air
 Of a bride.

VII

On the moor both broad and bare
Swept by breezy mountain air,
Where the rifted hollow goes,
And the rocks with jutting nose
 Sharply run,
There the bonnie heather corrie
Spreads forth its purple glory
 To the sun,
Where the air is sweet and mild,
Where the fawn, the mountain child,
 Comes to view,
And the dappled people wild
 Not a few.
Right snug the shelter there
Boon Nature did prepare
 For the hind
From the driving and the tearing,
And the cutting edge unsparing
 Of the wind ;
She, the sweetheart of the stag,
When he gazes down the crag,

With hoof untaught to lag
 On the Ben ;
No cassocked priest they need
To make their marriage speed
 There and then.
A healthy bride is she,
Right fine and fair to see,
 Nice and sweet ;
If you kissed her you would know
That the breath from her doth go
 Very sweet.
This corrie is the praise
 Of all men
Who trained in hunting ways
Ever came to feed their gaze
 On a Ben ;
And 'tis here in autumn weather
That the hunters come together,
When the breeze is racing shrill
Through the big gaps of the hill
 Down the glen.
All fruitfulness is there
That springeth fresh and fair,
Where the rainy virtue rare
 Will be pouring ;
All pleasantness it knows
Of the scent that largely flows
From the wild rasp and the rose
 On Ben Dorain ;
With stream and streamlet too
Where fishes not a few
 Suffer scath,

When the flashing light will bribe
 The thoughtless finny tribe
 To the death ;
 Where a stalwart youth shall stand
 With a strong spear in his hand
 Right and tight,
 And will pierce them with the pine,
 Where the gleaming torches shine,
 Through the night.
 Right pleasant too to watch
 At the station
 Of the eddy dark and deep
 Where the salmon love to rise,
 And the spotted trout will leap,
 A dainty meal to catch
 With surprise
 From the light and buzzing nation
 Of the flies.
 Such is my corrie fine ;
 In the bound
 Of the broad earth and the brine
 No virtue like to thine,
 Thou heather corrie fine,
 May be found.

VIII

The hind that dwelleth in this glen
 Is light of foot and airy ;
 Who tracks her way upon the Ben
 Must be full wise and wary.
 Softly, softly on her traces

He must steal with noiseless paces,
Nigh and still more nigh,
Lest she turn with sudden starting,
And, like feathered arrow darting,
Cheat his eager eye.

He must know to dodge behind
Rock and block in face of wind,
In the ditch and in the pit
Dripping lie and soaking sit,
Stoop, and creep, and crawl,
Ever with quick eye to note
Face of earth and clouds that float
In the azure hall.

Wisely, wisely wending round
Where she surely will be found ;
And then planted surely
Where with fixed and steady aim
He may mark the dappled game
For his own securely ;
Then his gun he well must know
How to handle 'gainst the foe,
With his firm forefinger's end
He the trigger back must bend ;
New and closely locked the flint,
Smart and sharp the hammer's dint,
Stroke whence flies a spark that never
Failed to kindle flame, however
Small the smutty grain ;
Powder dry—well-seasoned stuff—
Rammed with tow both rough and tough,
That without fail both loud and large
May speed the deadly dun discharge

Of smoke and leaden rain ;
'Tis a pleasant sight, I ween,
When the lusty youth are seen
 In their hunting gear
Brushing briskly through the heather,
Planted on the grass together
 Watching of the deer,
With a gun that none may blame,
And a flash of sudden flame,
 Winged with mortal fear ;
And the hounds, a restless crew,
Keen for bloody work to do,
Sharply nosing all the path,
Full of rapine and of wrath,
Yelping, howling at the sight,
Leaping with a wild delight ;
With their tails they lash their side
 Bristling with their hair,
Their huge jaws they open wide,
 With lowering brows they frown,
With forward tongue and panting breath,
Exulting in the scent of death,
They for the feast of blood prepare
 When the deer is down.
And now their time is come ; they know
Full well the winding way to go,
With rapid feet and sure,
Up and down, and to and fro
 Across the breezy moor ;
The mighty Ben, the rocks reply,
As with tempest speed they fly,
To the howling and the yelling,

And the deathful bustle swelling
O'er the breezy moor.
And now behold, with cunning wending,
They have chased her down,
To the narrow glen descending
From the mountain's crown.
In the pool of treacherous water
She must float and she must flounder
With a ring of death around her ;
Looking in the face of slaughter
She must now abide,
With her dear life's purple tide
Welling from her side ;
For now they hold her in their grasp
With a grip of death ;
While the yelping hounds confound her
She must splash and she must flounder,
She must pant and she must gasp,
Till she find no breath.
But I must cease to flood your ear
With all I know about the deer
And the fine craft of stalking ;
'Twould leave you deaf the half to hear,
And me drive from my senses sheer,
With such unmeasured talking.

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE GERMAN

DIE WACHT AM RHEIN

(Max Schneckenburger)

A LOUD cry swells like thunder's peal,
Like roaring wave, like clashing steel :
The Rhine, the Rhine, the German Rhine !
Who'll come to watch the German Rhine ?

Dear fatherland, no fear be thine,
Brave hearts and true shall watch the Rhine.

From heart to heart the quick thrill flies,
And lightning leaps from countless eyes,
Where each true German, sword in hand,
Guards the old border of the land.

Dear fatherland, etc.

And though with Death he make his bed,
No stranger foot thy bank shall tread ;
Rich, as in waves thy regal flood,
Is Deutschland in true hero-blood.

Dear fatherland, etc.

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He lifts his eye to Heaven's high crown,
Whence his high-hearted sires look down,
And swears an oath to keep thy flood
As German as his true heart's blood.

Dear fatherland, etc.

Till the last drop shall drain our veins,
While in one arm one blade remains,
And while one fuming shot is sped,
No Frankish foot thy bank shall tread.

Dear fatherland, etc.

The oath flies forth, the billows flow,
The forward banners flout the foe !
The Rhine, the Rhine, the German Rhine,
True Germans all, we watch the Rhine !

Dear fatherland, no fear be thine,
We watch, true Germans all, the Rhine !

WAS GLÄNZT DORT VOM WALDE? LÜTZOW'S WILD CHASE

(Körner)

WHAT gleams from yon wood, in the bright sun-shine ?

Hark ! nearer and nearer 'tis sounding ;
It hurries along, black line upon line,
And the shrill-voiced horns in the wild chase join,
The soul with dark horror confounding :
And if the black troopers' name you'd know,
'Tis Lützow's wild Jäger—a-hunting they go !

From hill to hill, through the dark wood they hie,
And warrior to warrior is calling ;
Behind the thick bushes in ambush they lie,
The rifle is heard, and the loud war-cry,
In rows the Frank minions are falling :
And if the black troopers' name you'd know,
'Tis Lützow's wild Jäger—a-hunting they go !

Where the bright grapes glow, and the Rhine roll wide,
He weened they would follow him never ;
But the pursuit came like the storm in its pride,
With sinewy arms they parted the tide,
And reached the far shore of the river :
And if the dark swimmers' name you'd know,
'Tis Lützow's wild Jäger—a-hunting they go !

How roars in the valley the angry fight ;
Hark ! how the keen swords are clashing !
High-hearted Ritter are fighting the fight,
The spark of Freedom awakens bright,
And in crimson flames it is flashing :
And if the dark Ritter's name you'd know,
'Tis Lützow's wild Jäger—a-hunting they go !

Who gurgle in death, 'mid the groans of the foe,
No more the bright sunlight seeing ?
The writhings of death on their face they show,
But no terror the hearts of the freemen know,
For the Frantzmen are routed and fleeing :
And if the dark heroes' name you'd know,
'Tis Lützow's wild Jäger—a-hunting they go !

The chase of the German, the chase of the free,
 In hounding the tyrant we strained it !
 Ye friends, that love us, look up with glee !
 The night is scattered, the dawn we see,
 Though we with our life's-blood have gained it !
 And from sire to son the tale shall go :
 'Twas Lützow's wild Jäger that routed the foe !

WAS BLASEN DIE TROMPETEN

WHY blare loud the trumpets ? — to horse, ye
 hussars !
 'Tis the gallant old field-marshall that rides to the
 wars !
 So cheerily rides he his own good steed,
 So brightly his sword flashes time to his speed ;
 Sound fife, trump, and drum ! for the Germans
 are come !
 Hurrah for right and liberty, the Germans are
 come !

O see how his blue eye, so clear and so kind,
 Is beaming, and wave his white locks to the wind !
 Like a stout old wine, so mellow and so fine,
 O he's the man to marshal the sons of the Rhine !
 Sound, etc.

O he is the man, when all was dark and dim,
 Who waved his sword in Heaven's eye—'twas all
 bright to him !

He swore by his true steel to teach them yet aright—
He swore an angry oath—how the Germans can fight.
Sound, etc.

His good oath he kept : when the war-cry rang,
On his horse, with a bound, bold Blücher sprang ;
And his clear blue eye shot fire to wash the shame
Of Auerstadt and Jena from the German name.

Sound, etc.

At Lützen, impatient, he headed the van,
Like a strong young lion, the old veteran :
There the Teut first taught the hot Frenchman to
bleed,
By the altar of freedom, the stone of the Swede.
Sound, etc.

The Katzbach was red with the fierce-drifting rain,
But eve saw it redder with the blood of the slain !
' Fare-thee-well, fare-thee-well ! and fairly may'st thou
sail,
And find a grave, false Frantzmann, with the Baltic
whale.'

Sound, etc.

Then forward, my brave boys, begun's half done :
We'll teach the nimble Corsican to run, boys, run !
O'er the Elbe, o'er the Elbe, now Preuss and Swede
advance,
And the fleet Don Cossack with his long, long lance !
Sound, etc.

On the red field of Leipzig he laid the French pride
 low ;
 He blew the blast of freedom loud at Leipzig, Oho !
 They fell, there they fell, ne'er to rise from their fall ;
 And we cheered old Blücher there—Long live the
 Field-marshal !

Sound, etc.

Then blow loud, ye trumpets, and tramp, ye hussars !
 'Tis our old Field-marshal that rides to the wars :
 To the Rhine, to the Rhine, and beyond the Rhine's
 the way,
 Thou doughty old Field-marshal, and God be with
 thee aye !

Sound, etc.

VATER ICH RUFE DICH

KÖRNER'S BATTLE PRAYER

FATHER, I call on Thee !
 Clouds from the thunder-voiced cannon enveil me,
 Lightnings are flashing, death's thick darts assail me ;
 Ruler of Battles, I call on Thee !
 Father, O lead Thou me !

Father, O lead Thou me !
 Lead me to victory, or to death lead me ;
 With joy I accept what Thou has decreed me.
 God, as Thou wilt, so lead Thou me !
 God, I acknowledge Thee !

God, I acknowledge Thee !
 Where, in still autumn, the sear leaf is falling,
 Where peals the battle its thunder appalling ;
 Fount of all Grace, I acknowledge Thee !
 Father, O bless Thou me !

Father, O bless Thou me !
 Into Thy hand my soul I resign, Lord ;
 Deal, as Thou wilt, with the life that is Thine, Lord.
 Living or dying, O bless Thou me !
 Father, I praise Thy name !

Father, I praise Thy name !
 Not for earth's wealth or dominion contend we ;
 The holiest rights of the freeman defend we.
 Victor or vanquished, praise I Thee !
 God, in Thy name I trust !

God, in Thy name I trust !
 When in loud thunder my death-note is knelling,
 When from my veins the red blood is welling,
 God, in Thy holy name I trust !
 Father, I call on Thee !

DU SCHWERDT AN MEINER LINKEN

THE SWORD SONG OF KÖRNER

THOU sword so cheerly shining,
 What are thy gleams divining ?
 Look'st like a friend on me,
 Triumphs my soul in thee.
 Hurrah ! hurrah ! hurrah !

‘I love my brave knight dearly,
Therefore I shine so cheerly.
Borne by a gallant knight,
Triumphs the sword so bright.’

Hurrah ! etc.

Yes, trusty sword, I love thec ;
A true knight thou shalt prove me.
Thee, my beloved, my bride,
I’ll lead thee forth in pride.

Hurrah ! etc.

‘My iron-life, clear raying,
I gave it to thy swaying.
Oh, come, and fetch thy bride !
Lead, lead me forth in pride !

Hurrah ! etc.

The festal trump is blaring,
The bridal dance preparing.
When cannon shakes the glen,
I’ll come and fetch thee then.

Hurrah ! etc.

‘Oh, blest embrace that frees me !
My hope impatient sees thee.
Come, bridegroom, fetch thou me ;
Waits the bright wreath for thee ?’

Hurrah ! etc.

Why in thy sheath art ringing,
Thou iron-soul, fire-flinging ?

So wild with battle's glee,
Why ray'st thou eagerly ?
Hurrah ! etc.

'I in my sheath am ringing ;
I from my sheath am springing ;
Wild, wild with battle's glee,
Ray I so eagerly.'
Hurrah ! etc.

Remain, remain within, love ;
Why court the dust and din, love ?
Wait in thy chamber small,
Wait till thy true knight call.
Hurrah ! etc.

'Then, speed thee, true knight, speed thee !
To love's fair garden lead me ;
Show me the roses red,
Death's crimson-blooming bed.'
Hurrah ! etc.

Then, from thy sheath come free thee !
Come, feed mine eye to see thee !
Come, come, my sword, my bride,
I lead thee forth in pride !
Hurrah ! etc.

'How glorious is the free air !
How whirls the dance with glee there !
Glorious, in sun arrayed,
Gleams, bridal-bright, the blade.'
Hurrah ! etc.

Then up, true Ritter German !
Ye gallant sons of Hermann !
Beats the knight's heart so warm,
With's true love in his arm ;
 Hurrah ! etc.

With stolen looks divining,
'Thou, on my left, wert shining.
Now on my right, my bride,
God leads thee forth in pride.
 Hurrah ! etc.

Then press a kiss of fire on
'The bridal mouth of iron.
Woe now or weal betide,
Cursed whoso leaves his bride !
 Hurrah ! etc.

'Then break thou forth in singing,
Thou iron-bride, fire-flinging !
Walk forth in joy and pride !
Hurrah ! thou iron-bride !
 Hurrah ! hurrah ! hurrah !

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